FBIS DAILY REPORT

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DEMOCRATIC ALLIANCE PARTIES REACH AGREEMENT

PY150337 Madrid EFE in Spanish 1500 GMT 14 Apr 87

[Excerpt] Brasilia, 14 Apr (EFE) -- The parties of the ruling Democratic Alliance -- the Liberal Front Party [PFL], and the Brazilian Democratic Mobilization Party [PMDB], today managed to overcome the crisis created at the Constituent Assembly, where there have been ever increasing rumors of an imminent ministerial crisis.

After several meetings of PMDB and PFL leaders, the two parties agreed to consider settled the crisis which started 3 weeks ago. The crisis was over the election of party members to executive positions at the Constituent Assembly, and it almost caused the PFL to join the opposition.

Ulysses Guimaraes, the PMDB's highest leader, and Mines and Energy Minister Aureliano Chaves, of the PFL, have decided to work together so that Brazil can have a new constitution this year. They also decided to give priority to debates on the form of government which better suits the country, and on the duration of the presidential term.

Announcing the result of the agreements, Guimaraes told the journalists that "the interests of the Brazilian people have priority over disagreements."

The agreement between the two parties enables President Sarney to make the announced ministerial changes. Nevertheless, although several members of the media today announced that the reshuffling is imminent, presidential palace sources have told EFE that it may occur in May. [passage omitted]

BOMB EXPLODES AT DEPUTY'S HOME; NO INJURIES

PY160103 Rio de Janeiro Rede Globo Television in Portuguese 2255 GMT 15 Apr 87

[Text] Early yesterday morning, a bomb exploded at the home of a Constituent Assembly deputy in Belo Horizonte. The homemade bomb exploded in the garage of Deputy Celio de Castro's home, but no one was injured. Deputy Castro belongs to Minas Gerais PMDB [Brazilian Democratic Mobilization Party], and has links with the Communist Party of Brazil.

ANGRA I NUCLEAR PLANT OPERATING AT 50 PERCENT

PY132306 Sao Paulo O ESTADO DE SAO PAULO in Portuguese 9 Apr 87 p 29

[From the Rio de Janeiro Office]

[Text] Furnas [Furnas Electric Power Plants, Inc] Director Marcio Costa has reported that the Angra I nuclear plant was restarted 1 week ago and that on 8 April it had reached 50 percent of the potential output of its reactors. This comes following a series of operational improvements in the operational security, which had been demanded by the National Nuclear Energy Commission.

The Angra I plant is now supplying electricity to the southeastern grid, but its final commissioning test has not yet been approved. The reactor must gradually achieve its full potential during the final test.

According to Costa, the Angra I plant has implemented an emergency plan in case of accidents and has adopted the necessary measures if there is a need to evacuate the region. These measures were demanded in a lawsuit which was brought by several civilian organizations, including the Prosecutor General's Office of Rio de Janeiro State, against Angra I.

Costa also reported that pamphlets drafted by the Civil Defense Commission of Angra were distributed among the population. Lectures on safety were also given to the population, and sirens have been placed at strategic places in the area.

FRANCE AGREES TO MEDIATE DEBT WITH CREDITORS

PY131720 Rio de Janeiro O GLOBO in Portuguese 9 Apr 87 p 21

[By correspondent Arny Bourrier]

[Text] Paris -- France has agreed to act as the Brazilian Government's mediator before Brazil's creditors to obtain better terms for negotiating the foreign debt. Official sources in Paris yesterday reported that Mario Soares has conveyed to Francois Mitterrand -- who is currently making an official visit to Portugal -- a message from President Sarney asking the French Government to intervene to change the creditors' position and facilitate the upcoming negotiations.

According to Mitterrand's advisers, one of the points discussed during the French-Portuguese meeting involved a request by President Sarney that countries such as France, which has a more flexible position concerning the debt problem, do whatever is necessary to prevent "the debt issue from compromising the young Brazilian democracy."

Incidentally, France immediately proposed better terms for rescheduling the Third World public debt at the Paris Club. The finance ministers of the 12 EEC member states listened to Minister Edouard Balladur explain the thesis necessary "to reduce the debt burden through new mechanisms for renegotiating the debt" during a meeting held in Knolle-le-Zoute, Belgium.

According to Balladur's proposal, the reimbursement of the foreign debt servicing of the most indebted countries will be made over much longer terms, ranging from 15 to 20 years, instead of the 10-year terms currently being implemented. Balladur's proposal also includes changes in the "Compensatory Financing Facilities" (a financing system to offset a drop in the trade balance -- and also a drop in exports -- as long as such as drop is the result of a decline in the prices for raw materials).

President Jose Sarney has described the comments French President Francois Mitterand made in Portugal supporting the Brazilian position of suspending the foreign debt payments, as fairly positive and favorable. Press Secretary Antonio Frota Neto yesterday reported this issue was discussed during a meeting that Sarney held with Spanish Foreign Minister Francisco Fernandez Ordonez, who is making a visit to Brazil.

CNT NOT TO CALL WORKERS IN TO STREETS ON MAY DAY

PY151621 Madrid EFE in Spanish 0407 GMT 15 Apr 87

[Text] Santiago, 14 Apr (EFE) -- Manuel Bustos, vice president of the National Workers Command (CNT), today said that his organization is not going to call Chilean workers "into the streets" on 1 May, Labor Day. Bustos, a textile union leader who heads the CNT-affiliated National Union Coordinating Board, explained that the CNT plans to hold a mass rally in an enclosed place. Bustos said: "By doing this we will be obeying the call by the Pope to create a nonbeligerant environment, which is contrary to what normally happens on this occasion when we are arrested for taking to the streets. We have decided to try to reach thousands of fellow workers with our proposals, which we hope will be broadcast by some radio station."

Bustos admitted that this decision will bring criticism from some sectors, however "the criticism will not come from workers but from interested groups. We do not want to do away with social struggle: we want to respond to the call for reconciliation issued by the Holy See." Bustos indicated that "the government is responsible for taking the necessary steps for reconciliation, and we do not want to oppose that call by telling the workers to go out into the streets."

INTERIOR MINISTER COMMENTS ON RAIDS, ALMEYDA

PY151425 Santiago Domestic Service in Spanish 1030 GMT 15 Apr 87

[Text] The extremist groups that are operating in Santiago persist in creating a false atmosphere of violence. This comment was made by Interior Minister Ricardo Garcia as he discussed the attacks by Marxist individuals against several radio stations. The interior minister pointed out that these minor groups had stated that they would refrain from this type of action, and now they are saying the opposite: that is, that they will continue to disturb social order and the common good.

[Begin Garcia Recording] Right. I believe that this issue should make us realize that these actions, these episodes throughout the country that you are pointing out, unfortunately prove that there is a certain sector that is still motivated by violent slogans advocating absurd confrontations. These groups continue to try to achieve their goals through these methods. These takeovers of mass media, which have been dramatic in some cases, unfortunately confirm the existence of groups with these intentions. Such groups are completely at odds with the true Chilean destiny and the desires of Chileans today. [end recording]

In Garcia's opinion, it is the duty of the entire community to emphatically reject these groups of promoters of violence. Minister Garcia was also asked if the government would take lagal action against former socialist foreign minister Clodomiro Almeyda, who clandestinely returned to Chile, despite an order banning him from doing so. Garcia pointed out that the Chilean attorney general is studying the legal and criminal classification of Almeyda's action.

[Begin Garcia recording] This problem is being faced by all the countries in the world nowadays, so let us not assign it to Chile, alone. We are constantly hearing about what is happening in several countries in the world. All of them are facing problems of violence and terrorism.

In this regard, my opinion is that this question should not be directed only to the government. The government is just part of the national community. This problem affects the entire national community. Thus, all members of the national community must do their duty and help make these kinds of slogans, beliefs, and aspirations completely unviable.

I believe that perhaps if these groups of promoters of violence, who are so misled about the country's true aspirations, feel the weight of the rejection of the entire society of this type of actions, they will be forced to disappear and stop their violence. This is the responsibility of the entire community. In fact, I believe that there is not a single person who does not repudiate this type of action. [end recording]

The interior minister confirmed that an indictment might be filed against Clodomiro Almeyda as soon as the attorney general rules on the case.

DEL VALLE ON U.S. COURTS ROLE IN ROJAS CASE

PY141515 Santiago Domestic Service in Spanish 1030 GMT 14 Apr 87

[Excerpt] [Passage omitted] Foreign Minister Jaime del Valle has said: We are almost certain that the U.S. Government will understand the U.S. courts do not have jurisdiction over Chilean legal cases. Del Valle made this comment in connection with a civil lawsuit that the relatives of torched youth Rodrigo Rojas Denegri filed with the U.S. courts.

CUADRA DENIES RUMORS OF CABINET CHANGES

PY160038 Santiago Domestic Service in Spanish 2300 GMT 15 Apr 87

[Excerpts] Minister Secretary General of Government Francisco Javier Cuadra has stated that some political sectors tried to subvert public order during the Pope's visit, thus trying to demonstrate that a state of generalized violence existed. However, he made it clear that these violent people will not be able to break the will of the government in its confrontation against the social scourge of terrorism.

Cuadra made these remarks in answer to questions posed by the press after a cabinet meeting at La Moneda Palace. The cabinet meeting was presided over by President Augusto Pinochet. Regarding these outbreaks of violence, Cuadra stated the security measures have been fruitful.

[Begin Cuadra recording] The results can be seen. The preventive measures that the government adopted in March have permitted the forces of order to work adequately to keep public order. Some incidents that occurred during the Pope's visit reflect the desire of certain political sectors to provoke a state of generalized violence, but fortunately the awareness demonstrated by the people [words indistinct]. Preventive measures are never sufficient. Violent groups or terrorist groups have in their favor the element of surprise. No society, no matter its political system, its cultural or economic development, has the phenomena of terrorism and violence completely under control. In this respect, we believe that within those guidelines the evaluation, despite some incidents, is for the time being positive. Of course, these incidents will not break the firm resolve of government authorities to stop an expansion of the scourge of terrorism to other sectors of society. [end recording]

Regarding the same topic, Cuadra made a call for a decided rejection of violence.

[Begin Cuadra recording] Finally, it is fundamental that we must always have in our minds the idea of a decided rejection of terrorism. As the government has always insisted, we must avoid the temptation of violence not only in words but in actions. In the past few days this violence has sprouted again in the shape of the FPMR [Manuel Rodriguez Patriotic Front] and the incidents that occurred during the pope's visit, especially in O'Higgins Park, [passage omitted] [end recording]

Asked about possible cabinet changes, Cuadra stated that the ministers are aides of the president in the government and in the administration of the state. Therefore, he said that their posts are at the disposal of the chief of state.

He made it clear that during the past few days rumors have been circulating about possible changes in the cabinet, but he said that it can be officially stated that currently there is absolutely nothing on which these rumors can be based, and, therefore, they are just simple and mere speculation.

Asked about the call for national reconciliation, Cuadra stated that this topic has surpassed the political sphere. [passage omitted]

LEFTISTS DENY ROLE IN INCIDENT DURING POPE'S VISIT

PY152200 Santiago EL MERCURIO in Spanish 7 Apr 87

[Text] The Movement of the Revolutionary Left (MIR) has denied that its militants participated in the violent incidents, which occurred on 3 April, during the "eucharistic ceremony for reconciliation," which Pope John Paul II held on occasion of the beautification of Sister Teresa de los Andes.

The MIR sent a note to the news media, stating that it would "never" use violence against priests, the Pope's guards, or foreign correspondents.

The note added that MIR is a revolutionary political party which has been fighting the government since it came to power. "Well-known Christian combatants like the assassinated Vergara brothers and Father Joan Alsina were members of our party. Hundreds of priests and nuns have supported us in our struggle by giving us food and shelter. Our main spokesman is Priest Rafael Maroto," the document states.

"The priests who work with the people have our appreciation. We recognize the church's struggle for human rights and democracy. Foreign and national correspondents who have continuously reported on the visit of the Pope and the complaints of the people have never been attacked by MIR militants..."

The MIR also asked for the investigative commission, which is made up of the president of the Episcopal Conference, a vicar of the Archbishopric, and a lawyer from the Vicariate of Solidarity, to prepare a report on the issue.

Meanwhile, the Popular Democratic Movement [MDP] has condemned the violent incidents, and has expressed its support for the Pope "Over such a serious profanation." It added that there is an attempt to blame the Movement for it.

It concluded by asking that those responsible be identified "to take corrective measures," or to issue apologies.

The "Coordinating Board of the Chilean Left," which represents 11 leftist groups stretching from the Socialist Party (Nunez faction) to the MIR, met yesterday to analyze the serious incidents. The parties denied any participation in the incidents and announced that they will hold a press conference.

In a public statement, the Chilean Socialist Party, Clodomiro Almeyda faction (MDP) described the incidents as "criminal provocation," which does not contribute "to the democratic cause."

It added that important Christian and Catholic sectors are part of the movement. "They support the people's cause. For that reason, and given the high office of Pope John Paul II, we state our respect and our interest in his proposals."

DEL VALLE, BOLIVIAN ENVOY PLAN MONTEVIDEO MEETING

PY141453 Santiago Domestic Service in Spanish 1030 GMT 14 Apr 87

[Text] Foreign Minister Jaime del Valle has held the last coordinating meeting with Jorge Siles Salines, Bolivian consul general to Chile. The meeting was designed to review the protocol of a 3-day meeting to be held between the Chilean and Bolivian foreign ministers. As reported, the meeting between the Chilean and Bolivian foreign ministers will be held on 21-23 April in Montevideo.

The meeting with the consul was held at the office of Foreign Minister Jaime del Valle. Following the meeting, the Bolivian consul said the protocol for the Montevideo meeting was discussed.

[Begin Siles recording] During the meeting I just held with the foreign minister, we discussed only the protocol for the Montevideo meeting. We discussed how that meeting, which is very important and will last 3 days, will develop. There are many details that must be considered, such as the protocol and the timetable. This is all we discussed. Thus, I cannot make any other comment because this issue is being handled exclusively at the foreign-minister level. [end recording]

The Bolivian consul general was asked about the probable proposals to be made by his government during the Montevideo meeting. He said he is not the appropriate person to respond to these questions. He emphasized that it is necessary to wait for the meeting to take place.

In response to a direct question from a journalist on whether a decision had been made not to issue a statement on this issue, Jorge Siles Salinas said the following:

[Begin Siles recording] Right. As you know, this is being considered as a necessary approach. To achieve a policy of rapprochement and a good relationship it is appropriate to be prudent. [end recording]

In conclusion, the Bolivian consul general to Chile said his country obviously has a positive and optimistic spirit.

The Bolivian consul will return to Bolivia on 16 April. He will then go to Montevideo.

AIR FORCE COMMANDER FAVORS POLITICAL DIALOGUE

PY101947 Madrid EFE in Spanish 0412 GMT 10 Apr 87

[Text] Santiago, 9 Apr (EFE) -- General Fernando Matthei, Air Force commander and government junta member, said today he is in favor of talks with officially registered political parties.

In his remarks during ceremonies honoring the Air Force, Gen Matthei said the political parties must get organized and obtain the necessary support, but the government "must set the time and the conditions because it must assume the responsibility."

Matthei expressed his agreement with another junta member, Admiral Jose Toribio Merino, who said yesterday that "the dialogue can be broad, encompassing all topics that can be discussed regarding the administration of the country," once the political parties are legally recognized.

Gen Matthei explained that "we are in agreement not by coincidence, but because we as members of the junta have discussed it at the meetings we have had and we have agreed that this is how we will proceed."

Referring to the interlocutors in the dialogue, the political parties, Matthei said they must do "the same thing I am willing to do: To think over the pope's request that dialogue is in the best interest of all Chileans and the Chilean nation." Gen Matthei emphasized: "I am sure that it must be so; that from now on I must not say a word to divide Chileans, but to unite them. If I have said something different before, let's forget it."

So far, only the National Party, which is a rightist party independent from the government, has registered in the official Electoral Registry.

The Radical Democracy Party (progovernment), the National Advance Movement (extreme right), and the National Renewal Party (made up by sectors of the right such as the Independent Democratic Union, National Action, and National Labor Party) have already announced their decision to register.

The Christian Democratic Party plans to discuss in the near future whether to comply with the Electoral Registration Law, which was approved last March to permit the registration of political parties.

Political parties of Marxist ideology cannot be registered under that law, and leftist parties have made public their intention not to register.

OPPOSITION GROUPS TO INTENSIFY DEMONSTRATIONS

PY152322 Paris AFP in Spanish 2037 GMT 15 Apr 87

[Text] Asuncion, 15 Apr (AFP) -- Leaders of the opposition National Accord, an opposition coalition, reported today that the opposition to the government of General Alfredo Stroessner will intensify its mobilizations within the next 15 days, with or without permission, to force the democratic normalization in the country.

A sector of the proscribed Authentic Radical Liberal Party (PLRA) has called for a political meeting on Easter Sunday in the city of Luque, near Asuncion. Moreover, the National Accord's political youth, in addition to movements of young laymen from the church and social organizations, reported that they will try to follow stages of the cross on Good Friday to commemorate the crucifixion of Jesus Christ, near the Tavapy II colony, where local peasants are being threatened with imminent eviction. The Federation of Paraguayan University Students (FEUP) has also scheduled a rally of students from the national and Catholic universities on 24 April. It hopes to gather more than 10,000 university students. The following day, the same youth groups plan to hold a book sale at a plaza in solidarity with the Tavapy II peasants, and 2 days later, a political rally.

On 1 May, workers grouped within the independent W kers Inter-union Movement (MTI), have scheduled a thanksgiving mass for labor day, and a demonstration in demand of better salaries and better living conditions. The National Accord intends to hold another political rally on 14 May, Independence day, taking advantage of the lifting of the state of siege, its sources reported.

The Asuncion opposition sources have stated that they will take maximum advantage of the lifting of the state of exception to stage their protest movements and thus demonstrate that the lifting of the state of siege only seeks to sell a different image abroad and that the government is continuing to restrict freedom.

LAINO TO MAKE ANOTHER ATTEMPT TO ENTER PARAGUAY

PY152216 Asuncion EL DIARIO in Spanish 14 Apr 87 p 8

[Text] Authentic Radical Liberal Party (PLRA) President Dr Manuel Benitez Florentin has stated that the PLRA executive board has decided to have Dr Domingo Laino make another attempt to return to our country. The opposition politician, who is living in exile in Argentina, will reportedly make an attempt to enter Paraguay this month. "We still have not confirmed the date because we could not contact Laino," Benitez Florentin said.

Asked about the reasons for the PLRA executive board deciding to have Laino make another attempt, Benitez Florentin said that "the decision was made as a result of the comments made by the official Colorado Party spokesman, Dr Martin Chiola, who stated that all exiles can return to the country without any paperwork."

Benitez Florentin added: "We understand that the comments made by Chiola convey the official stand because he is the leader of the Colorado bloc at the National Congress."

Juan Carlos Zaldivar, the PLRA president on leave, along with seven other people who were arrested in Capiata while they were holding a political rally, were freed at noon yesterday.

Dr Caballero Roig filed a habeas corpus writ for the eight detainees yesterday morning.

SANGUINETTI REPLIES TO AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL

PY100220 Paris AFP in Spanish 1525 GMT 8 Apr 87

[Text] Montevideo, 8 Apr (AFP) -- President Julio Maria Sanguinetti has said that last December's law which put an end to the trials against military men and policemen charged with violating human rights is aimed at ensuring the development and strengthening of the democratic system.

In a letter sent to Ian Marin, Amnesty International Secretary General, the president said that the law is aimed at guaranteeing human rights, because there cannot be respect for human rights without democracy nor democracy without human rights. Sanguinetti's letter was a reply to a letter sent by Marin. In his letter Marin commented on and asked questions about the scope of the law.

In his reply, the president pointed out that the law does not contradict the principle of double jeopardy, does not change the jurisdiction or the independence of each government branch, and in no way limits any powers of the Supreme Court. Although he admitted there are some similarities between the law and amnesty, he said the government has only relinquished its right to prosecute the crime.

Sanguinetti also said that the state cannot exercise its rights in an abstract manner without taking into consideration other state functions. He added that one of the state's main functions is to ensure peaceful coexistence and the development of the community within a framework of peace and security. Relinquishing the right to prosecute is just another way of administering justice, because both amnesty and the right to prosecute are based on the same political principle.

According to the president, no reasonable or honest person could say that the law violates human rights because there is no express disposition in this regard. It is also impossible to invoke international laws, regulations, or customary practices to assert that the violation existed.

Concluding his letter, Sanguinetti called Amnesty International a respected organization. He added that it would be regrettable if Amnesty International became an accomplice of an antigovernment campaign, either by inadvertent mistake or naivete.

EXECUTIVE BRANCH FULLY SUPPORTS FINANCE MINISTER

PY152217 Paris AFP in Spanish 1632 GMT 15 Apr 87

[Text] Montevideo, 15 Apr (AFP) -- Uruguayan Vice President Enrique Tarigo today stated that the government will try to prevent the downfall of Economy and Finance Minister Ricardo Zerbino who next week will be interpellated by a Christian Democratic deputy as the result of a banking operation. Tarigo said that Ricardo Zerbino is unquestionably the best finance minister the country can have, and stated that the country cannot afford to lose him on account of a political whim. Tarigo added that the executive branch will support the economy and finace minister to the bitter end.

Christian Democratic Deputy Hector Lescano will question Zerbino on the purchase of the majority of the stock of the Banco Comercial bank. The stock was purchased by the state-owned Banco Republica in March.

If Congress censures the economy and finance minister, to make him resign, the Executive Branch has a right to dissolve Congress and call early elections.

The decision to summon to the Chamber of Deputies the Uruguayan economy minister was made last week with the votes of the Broad Front leftwing coalition (communists, socialists, Christian Democrats, and independents), the opposition National Party (centrist), and the Catholic Civic Union Party.

ECONOMY MINISTER ON FOREIGN DEBT, TIES WITH IMF

PY151717 Madrid EFE in Spanish 2137 GMT 14 Apr 87

[Text] Montevideo, 14 Apr (EFE) -- Uruguayan Economy Minister Ricardo Zerbino has said that his country "will not have to secure new loans from the IMF because of its very good foreign currency reserves." Zerbino spoke to the local press upon returning from Washington, where he attended IMF and World Bank meetings. The agreement between Uruguay and the IMF expired on 31 December 1986. Zerbino noted that "Uruguay does not need a new stand-by credit."

According to financial sources, the portion of the Uruguayan foreign debt that will reach maturity in the immediate future represents one-third of the country's foreign reserves.

The grace period granted by the creditors of the Uruguayan Government, which began in March 1985, when the country's foreign debt was refinanced, expires in July 1987. Uruguay's foreign debt per capita is the second-largest in Latin America, $5 billion for 2.9 million inhabitants.

The government did not release figures on the portion of the foreign debt that will reach maturity in the immediate future. This will depend on the interest rates prevailing at the time of payment. Private-sector sources estimated the portion of the foreign debt that will reach maturity in the immediate future will range from $224 to $280 million. According to the Central Bank's most recent balance sheet, Uruguay's international reserves total $825.7 million and have increased by $250 million in 1986.

Concerning the future relationship between Uruguay and the IMF, Zerbino admitted that "initial contacts were made to define the future relationship with the IMF. However, we still have not made a formal proposal because we have not yet completed the financial program for 1987 and 1988." Zerbino added that "some important aspects must still be arranged." According to the same source, this will be achieved when the statement of accounts is rendered to Congress in May. The statement of accounts and the report on the budget "usually includes guidelines that significantly affect the annual financial program for the central government and for government agencies," the minister added.

Concerning foreign-debt developments, one of the issues discussed during the meetings recently held in Washington, Zerbino pointed out that "the efforts by the udnerdeveloped countries have not been matched by additional funds supplied by the commercial banks, and the industrialized countries themselves have not grown at the expected rate." In Zerbino's opinion, "the world economy, therefore, did not receive the desired impetus and no progress has been made in reversing the protectionist trends that have appeared recently."

NORIEGA CLOSES INTERPOL CONFERENCE 9 APRIL

PA120429 Panama City LA REPUBLICA in Spanish 10 Apr 87 pp 1, 2, 15

[Speech by General Manuel Antonio Noriega, Panamanian Defense Forces commander in chief, during the closing of the 11th American regional conference of International Criminal Police Organization, Interpol, at the ATLAPA Convention Center in Panama City on 9 April]

[Excerpts] Interpol Director General Dr John R. Simpson, Adjunct Secretary Dr Chamorro, directors of America's regional police, observers, ladies and gentlemen:

Gentlemen, we could not close this conference without adhering to the historic foundations that compelled human societies to organize themselves against crime in all its scope, levels, and areas. [passage omitted]

This organization constitutes a true example of the possibilities that exist for states to act together in delicate matters of international interest without detriment to their national sovereignty. Allow me to stress this point because the highly professional techniques that Interpol has been using clearly show that diverse forms of international crimes and offenses can be combatted without the need to interfere in the domestic affairs of other states or to defend the dignity of the nations that belong to this organization.

In fact, Interpol's strength as well as the efficacy of its actions are based on the sound concept that the current and very real interdependence of states in all sectors of international life does not mean that the independence of national institutions ceases to exist. Instead, it means untainted respect for the sincere, honest, and open participation of each country in police activities and objectives that are of interest to all mankind.

The duties and objectives which Interpol fulfills every day serve to emphasize a certain parallel that exists between institutional problems of domestic civil peace and international peace. When we talk about civil peace and international peace. When we talk about civil peace, we mean the domestic peace which is guaranteed by the state and which must protect every private citizen. States have managed to reduce the levels of crime, although they have been unable to completely eliminate it. That is why states will continue to need for a long time a police force ready to act with ever growing effectiveness.

By the same token, international delinquency most likely will not be completely eliminated. However, we must be prepared to reduce to a minimum the criminal's fields of operations.

At any rate, we must always keep in mind that an organization like Interpol has NOT [preceding word published in upper case] been created so much to protect the states as abstract legal institutions, but, when all is said and done, to protect specific individuals from international crime. This is an aspect which should be more extensively publicized in order to raise the respect and recognition which citizens from the countries that belong to Interpol feel for this organization.

I feel it is very important that the bases for Interpol's activities do not include a study of the "causes" of international crime. Otherwise, you can be sure that the organization would be paralyzed until the causes that drive certain people to perpetrate a crime are discovered.

That would happen because determining the "causes" of international crime would require undertaking a far-reaching historical, sociological, and psychological analysis. With regards to international crime, the approach of finding out its causes to then eliminate it would never be the appropriate one.

We could ask ourselves with all sincerity: What would happen if instead of effectively using the law and the police we were to focus on the problem of international crime in an allegedly "scientific" manner, that is, trying to investigate the specific causes of each crime? As far as I am concerned, I am convinced that an organization like Interpol has served to significantly reduce a major "cause" of international crime, which is the hope each criminal has of "doing all right" if he leaves his country's borders.

The success which this conference has specifically achieved could serve as a model for the Latin American countries. In other areas of social and international life they can appreciate the advantages of an approach based on engineering and social technology. Basically, this approach asks if a particular organization or institution is properly formed and organized to achieve the mission entrusted to it. Based on that concept of social technology, we can note with pleasure that Interpol, that international police force, was formed and created to be an adequate instrument for the protection and security of citizens vis-a-vis the movements of international criminals. In this respect the objectives for which it was created have been conscientiously fulfilled.

I am sure that the distinguished delegates and observers to this conference have once again been able to attest that the Panamanian Government continues to firmly adhere to its tradition of actively and honestly participating in all international conferences and in all multilateral and bilateral agreements that have sought or seek to combat crime in all its wide range, from apparently minor crimes to major crimes like international drug trafficking with the economic advantage of using banks to launder the drug empires' money!

However, in order to understand more clearly Panama's role in the ongoing war against international criminals, we must first make a sincere effort to understand very well the geographic, strategic, and geopolitical situation of the Isthmus of Panama. These factors have turned Panama into the crossroads of the world. Although no major international crimes originate or are conducted in Panama, the special position of our territory, which I have mentioned to you, does make it the objective and target of criminals in transit from all over.

Therefore, the Panamanian Government and its president, together with the Panamanian Defense Forces, are fully aware that the effective struggle against all sorts of international crimes cannot be limited to the localized action of a state within its borders. Instead, this struggle must consist of multilateral action by all the nations of the world. We have an example of the need for multilateral action here because this conference has given an in-depth treatment to problems as serious as illegal drug trafficking, international terrorism, fraud and economic crimes, crimes against property, as well as the vital project of setting up a new Interpol telecommunications center in the Caribbean and Central America.

Panama here reaffirms its active cooperation with any country in the world to help defeat the forces of crime. In your desks you will find public documents, illustrated, photographic, and statistical reports on the number of drug traffickers and criminals who have been captured in Panama or while in transit in our country.

Many of these people were quickly extradited to countries that requested their extradition, chiefly to the United States. Only a person filled with dastardly political interests would reject such convincing documentary proof that Panama has been waging a war on drugs for 16 years. Perhaps in this case the words of that great U.S. humorist Mark Twain could apply: "You cannot depend on your eyes when your imagination is out of focus."

As we close Interpol's 11th American regional conference, it is worth recalling that the great ideal of maintaining civilized life itself, which has been possible thanks to the sacrifice of so many generations, is intimately linked to the objective of protecting the security and tranquility of the great majority of honest and hard-working citizens who belong to and wish to improve modern, open, democratic, just, and humanitarian societies.

Bidding you farewell, Panama again feels proud and satisfied to have received you and that its president and government officials had the privilege of sharing time with you.

Today, as in October 1978, when we were selected as president of the 47th Interpol Assembly with 114 countries participating, we had the privilege of being present when the Legendary French Secretary Jean Nepot stepped down, and we were honored to receive recognition for our work and cooperation to combat drug trafficking from former Drug Enforcement Administration Director Peter Bessinger. On behalf of Panama and the unsung fighters of the DENI [National Department of Investigations], we accept the warm congratulations from Mr Simpson and the distinguished delegations to our fatherland and police corps. As brothers in solidarity in the struggle against crime and white collar criminals, we say so long. We thank you very much because you have taught us all the great experiences that have made you worthy representatives of the United States, Puerto Rico, Peru, the Bahamas, Jamaica, Haiti, Costa Rica, Argentina, Mexico, Venezuela, Colombia, Antigua, Bermuda, Canada, Chile, Dominica, Ecuador, Guatemala, Honduras, The Dominican Republic, Uruguay, The Turks and Caicos, Spain, and England.

Keep in mind that the communities of which we are the vanguard are pressing their demands because they are starving for security.

Starving for economic security!

Starving for political security!

Starving for cultural security!

Starving for social security!

These are the circles that converge in the epicenter of security against violence.

Greetings.

Drug-Fighting Effort Applauded

PA130248 Panama City MATUTINO in Spanish 11 Apr 87 p 16

[Text] The Office of the Secretary General of Interpol [International Criminal Police Organization] has expressed its satisfaction with the recent seizure by the antinarcotics forces of Panama of 800 kg of cocaine, noting that this was an important action in the struggle against the illegal trafficking of drugs. It also noted that the Panamanian law on the curbing and prevention of the use of drugs "considers and points out" what necessarily must be pointed out and considered by modern law.

Raymond Kendall, from the Office of the Secretary General, has said that he received from Interpol legal experts a report noting that the (Panamanian) law fills holes that existed before.

MATUTINO asked Kendall what the main obstacle is that Interpol faces in fighting drug trafficking. He answered that the main obstacle is the "lack of a general policy" that would permit the states to coordinate their efforts. He said it is time for consuming and producing countries to stop making mutual accusations and to join efforts because drug addiction is not exclusively a U.S. problem.

Referring to the effectiveness of Interpol, the secretary general [as published] said that it is always "increasing." Further on he said that drug consumption is not a "police" problem, but a "social" problem, and that the police are working to reduce drug trafficking.

During the conference, Panama presented a report on drug trafficking that pointed out that Panama's geographic position, its climate, and its many commercial activities have caught the attention of drug traffickers.

Those attending the conference were able to hear that approximately 420 kg of cocaine were seized in 1986 and that from January to March of this year another 149 kg of cocaine have been seized. [figures as published]

The Panamanian report noted that 40 of the 149 kg were seized thanks to the close cooperation between the narcotics agents of Panama and Paraguay.

It was noted that the international banking center is viewed with interest by drug traffickers, who want to hide capital derived from their activities. For this reason, legislation has been promoted that effectively eliminates financial crimes.

The conference made recommendations on current communications systems that "do not fully utilize" the area's communications potential. It has been reported that the new telecommunications network in 29 area countries, making use of the new computerized electronic mail system that can transmit and print a page in 10 seconds. [sentence as published] The few existing networks will continue operating to complement and support the new, properly coded system.

Another concern for the police authorities of Latin America and the Caribbean is the counterfeiting of money. It was reported that during 1986 the specialized group of the Office of the Secretary General handled 4,000 cases involving the counterfeiting of European currencies, and only 300 cases involving Latin American currencies.

Only three countries from the American continent exchanged data and information in this regard with the Office of the Secretary General. Twnety-two European countries exchanged data with the office.

Interpol, through the office of its Secretary General, publicly congratulated Panama for its decision to put an end to drug trafficking in national territory. It pointed out that it has been observed that Panama has the will to give priority attention to international cooperation in police matters.

Important Interpol recommendations call for the seizing of revenues derived from drug trafficking and for increased training in financial earnings affairs. The recommendations also discuss the use of false documents by criminals. Interpol said it is necessary to have better laws on criminal matters and that the law recently approved in Panama should be taken as an example, because it is important to have sufficient information to make sure that no money gets by covertly, violating the law.

Press Handling of Drug Issue

PA122256 Panama City LA PRENSA in Spanish 11 Apr 87 p 1

["As of Today" column]

[Text] Taking advantage of the 11th American Regional Conference of the International Criminal Police Organization [Interpol], the government press has widely publicized the confiscation of a large quantity of drugs intended, presumably, for the U.S. market. This propagandist maneuver is evident at a time when the U.S. Senate is discussing Panama's effective cooperation in the international struggle against the scourge of drug trafficking.

Nevertheless, this same press never showed any interest when large sectors of the community asked about the final results of these much publicized investigations and, specifically, if the people involved in these crimes had been punished in keeping with our penal laws. Still fresh in the peoples' memories are the discovery of a clandestine lab in the jungles of Darien; the dismissal of a ranking military officer who, despite having been dismissed from the institution, was never tried by any court; and the mysterious release of certain prisoners who, despite being called to trial by the courts, could not be found in any of the country's jails.

The government press has been silent in regard to these irregularities, but this is no longer surprising because that same press has never been interested in publishing truthful information the Panamanian people have a right to.

GOVERNMENT REJECTS ASYLUM FOR 'WAR CRIMINAL'

PA160205 Panama City Televisora Nacional in Spanish 0000 GMT 16 Apr 87

["Special Bulletin"]

[Text] In Panama, the most important news of the day concerned our government's final rejection of an asylum request by a war criminal. What happened yesterday?

The Panamanian Foreign Ministry granted asylum to (Carl Lehman), who once was the head of a concentration camp in Tartu, Estonia, during World War II. This was reported by Televisora Nacional and international news agencies. In view of the official Panamanian announcement, U.S. Attorney General Edwin Meese announced in Washington that he had ordered (Carl Lehman's) deportation to Panama instead of handing him over to the USSR, where he is sought on charges of genocide and faces a death sentence. (Lehman), a retired topographer, lived in New York City. A spokesman for the Jewish World Council in New York immediately called the U.S. decision a monstrous travesty of justice. He said that Paraguay had been internationally condemned for accepting Joseph Mengele in the 1960's. (Lehman) was found guilty of being a war criminal and sentenced to death in 1962.

How has the international news outlook changed? What happened today?

Panamanian President Eric Arturo Delvalle made exclusive remarks to this station from the United States, interrupting his Holy Week vacations. He announced that he would not permit (Lehman's) asylum in Panama. Panama, a country that is open to all persecuted persons in the world, could not accept a war criminal found guilty of murdering 12,000 inmates of Tartu concentration camp, in Estonia. [sentence as heard] This afternoon the president met with representatives of the CBS and NBC television networks, REUTER, and SIN, all of them influential news agencies in the United States, about this case. President Eric Arturo Delvalle reaffirmed that the Panamanian Government had decided not to grant asylum to this person, although the country has a tradition of granting political asylum on humanitarian grounds. The Panamanian president emphatically told international news media that this is not a case of granting asylum to a politically persecuted person but one involving war crimes. For that reason, on this occasion Panama cannot grant asylum.

In conclusion, Jose Isabel Blandon, Panama's consul general in New York, summoned representatives of international news agencies to inform them of the final decision made by President Eric Arturo Delvalle. Blandon read an official communique. The most important paragraph of the communique stated: Following a thorough analysis of the request, the Government of Panama has decided to reject the asylum request of (Carl Lehman). In this way the Government of the Republic of Panama reflects the concern of major sectors of the Jewish and international communities and of our country as well. Likewise, our government rejects and condemns crimes of fascism.

PRD, OPPOSITION DISCUSS 'NATIONAL CRISIS'

PA150246 Panama City Circuito RPC Television in Spanish 0330 GMT 14 Apr 87

[Part 1 of "Special Edition" program with reporter Mayin Correa; Christian Democratic Party President Ricardo Arias Calderon; Abraham Pretto, vice president of the Nationalist Liberal Republican Movement; legislator Ovidio Diza, president of the Legislative Assembly and active member of the Democratic Revolutionary Party, PRD; Juan Materno Vasquez, president of the PRD's discipline committee -- live]

[Excerpts] [Correa] A few days ago [30 March], LA ESTRELLA DE PANAMA, one of America's oldest newspapers, ran an editorial called "In View of the Grave National Crisis," which inspired this dialogue. We think dialogue between people who think differently is healthy in a moment of crisis. I will read it for you because it introduces this program and because tonight's guests will voice their opinions on this newspaper's proposals. This is the editorial.

The grave crisis that looms dangerously over the country cannot be concealed. Several events that completely hamper the country's normal development have pressed themselves on all levels of the national life in the past few weeks. Conflicts of all kinds have emerged. Discontent and uncertainty have begun to pervade the Panamanian people. The nation has been shaken by a number of strikes, both of public and private enterprise employees. Tranquillity and peace have decreased. To this we must add the voices of disagreement over the adverse results -- which have begun to be observed, according to the leaders of the two sectors -- of the bills approved into law last year, dealing with industrial and agricultural and livestock activities. [passage omitted]

The current situation is extremely delicate. Not only is production paralyzed by work stoppages and strikes, but now the economy is stagnated by the energy rationing program implemented by IRHE [Institute of Hydraulic Resources and Electrification]. The nation is stagnated at a time when unemployment, misery, and hunger pervade large sectors. Selfishness, envy, personalism, and political interests negatively influence the nation's socioeconomic development. The time has come to act with common sense and judiciousness. The unity of all Panamanians, regardless of their social status or political ideologies is urgent. The crisis threatens all of us equally and with destructive results. [passage omitted]

[Diaz] In the first place, I must say I considered your invitation carefully prior to coming to your program. I have always accepted your invitations. This is not the first time, there have been many. I am here, but not as the president of the Assembly. My words reflect my personal posture. In addition, I do not represent the PRD here, although I am both a PRD member and the president of the Assembly, and the two go together. I will comment on the LA ESTRELLA DE PANAMA editorial. There is no doubt that a crisis exists. The crisis has many aspects. I think the author of the editorial focused his attention on aspects which could represent the opinions of some of the newspaper's staff. I will mention the crisis in the industrial and agriculture and livestock sectors. The position of a group of legislators who only 2 weeks ago asked the Assembly to abrogate the agricultural and livestock law. [sentence as heard] There is no doubt that, if we continue along these lines, we will also see other legislators asking that the industrial law be annuled. Even opposition members, such as professor Ruben Dario Carles and Dr Chapman, said: If these laws are abrogated, the money that the country must get to solve the national crisis is at stake. It takes courage to say it, but this crisis is a financial crisis that affects not only the public but the private sector also. This has forced our country, in the renegotiation of the debt, to accept clauses with which many disagree, but which constitute realities. These clauses have not been imposed by international organizations. All this would disappear like magic if we could repay the debt. Those of us who have been familiar with bank loan situations -- we will now use familiar language here -- know that, when the customer is a debtor, the banks, to collect their money, impose several conditions, thinking that in this way they will succeed in collecting. This is this country's reality.

[Correa] So you see the crisis on an economic level?

[Diaz] On a financial, economic level. This is the origin of all the problems we have mentioned: nonconformity and conformism. I am one of those who encourage nonconformity because conformism is only the posture of mediocre people. I do not oppose people in the Social Security Fund receiving a higher salary.

I do not oppose people wanting to ban the import of rice and other products that could be affected if decisions at the upper levels to protect farmers are not made. I believe in this. I encourage such movements. I know public employee strikes are forbidden, but I have been part of a past when I encouraged such movements, nearly always when the nation's destiny was at stake. The decision making is what counts. I will speak of a constitutional precept. Dr Arias Calderon also participated in this. This is where the crisis could have originated, a crisis of trust. At present, political parties have the right to what is known as mandate revocation. This means that some legislators who have it -- some that do not keep trying to create it -- are subject to political parties' decisions. Many times, the utterance of a legislator is not his but the party's. This principle also works on the executive level. Ministers represent political parties. Many times, an executive who sometimes wants to advocate a law... [changes thought] We will speak about the Social Security Law. Nobody in this country would like to legislate on structural amendments to the Social Security Law. These, however, are realities to avoid a larger Social Security Fund financial crisis.

This is why it does not make sense that there are now a large number of workers asking for salary raises to the tune of $5 million yearly -- this represents $15 million since 1983 -- when we are really trying to pass legislation to find a solution to the financial problem. When one speaks to some sectors, Mayin, they say this is false, there is no crisis. This is where a crisis of trust might take place. As I see it, whatever happens in this country, within this democracy that we want and where the Legislative Assembly is working normally, is the result of our democracy. There are those who simply protest and demonstrate, those who are in the streets, without an educational reform bill. I think there is not even the intention of introducing such a bill, and it has not been introduced. Minister Solis Palma only conducts a national consultation. All that we have been living through is part of the political process.

[Correa] Diaz cannot be stopped from talking. He stops me from talking at the Assembly, but I cannot stop him here. Let's go on. It is worthwhile commenting because there are various views on the national crisis. For example, some say that there must be a coup. General Noriega has said there is no crisis, that all this is only political chattering, that there is no economic crisis at all, and that all is in peace. [passage omitted]

What is going to happen? What will happen? For instance, the communist party [People's Party, PdP] says it does not rule out the possibility of a coup d'etat. So says the PDP, which has participated in the government during the last 18 years.

[Vasquez] No, no, no. That is not true. The PdP was never part of Torrijos' government.

[Correa] It did not participate?

[Vasquez] Mention a post....

[Correa, interrupting] Since I am not... [changes thought] I want to change the subject and ask Dr Arias a question. Do you think as I do, or am I wrong? If not, then I will give the explanation. You as a panelist....

[Arias, interrupting] I think it is public knowledge that there was an understanding between the communist sectors and the Torrijos government.

However, I think that the question here is not to analyze the period during which General Torrijos governed the country. I think that what we must do is understand what we are experiencing now and how we are going to extricate ourselves from the current situation.

[Correa] Correct. I will give you an opinion and you pick up from there.

[Arias] I would prefer not to get involved in this controversy.

[Correa] I would not want to do so either, because I am not a panelist. I would be delighted, though, to analyze how the communists participated during these 18 years. I can attest to that. However, this is not the issue. The issue is this: They, the PdP, which is the communist party, say that they do not rule out the possibility of a coup d'etat. Also, General Noriega says in regard to this crisis, and I quote: He noted in regard to the chaos, pardon, I will begin [reading] further on: Referring to the comments by various sectors that the country is on the brink of chaos, General Noriega noted that those who believe this do so because they want power and added that during the years 1940, 1939, and 1904, when these sectors which are talking and crowing so much about a crisis held the reins of power, the same kind of things happened; there were the same temperaments, and there were similar political situations. In other words, he contends that these are normal developments in the country.

Well, it is important to mention also that a certain managerial sector of the PRD places the entire blame on its own party. Mario Rognoni of the PRD says that the Christian Democratic Party is ruling the country...

[Arias, interrupting] Unfortunately, no.

[Correa, interrupting] Pardon, I beg your pardon.

[Arias, interrupting] It will not begin to do so for a while...

[Correa, interrupting] Pardon, pardon, based on [word indistinct] of the PRD. I make a mistake. In this statement, Rognoni says that the PRD currently controls approximately half of the ministries, has an absolute majority in the Assembly, controls most independent agencies, and, therefore, has the largest share of the responsibility within the UNADE [National Democratic Union] for the current crisis. In other words, he blames his own party for it. What is your opinion, Dr Arias?

[Arias] I would like to refer to the thesis of legislator Diaz, according to which this crisis is essentially financial and all the rest stems from there. He sounds like someone who runs into a family with financial problems and tells it that its problems are of an economic nature but then does not try to find out if the husband is a drunkard, or whether the wife is spending too much money, or whether the offspring are not working and helping out; that is, does not look into the root of the problem.

I do not think a single Panamanian can accept Diaz' thesis. I see it as an attempt to defend a situation. He is president of the assembly and finds it harder than we do to admit there is a crisis. The crisis is not fundamentally financial in nature. The financial aspect is a consequence of it. [Passage omitted] So, I think we should be candid and have the civic courage to admit that we are faced with an important crisis. It has an additional dimension: All of us Panamanians look to the year 2000 as a year when we finally assume full, sovereign responsibility over the Panama Canal.

There is not a single Panamanian who deep down does not want this and who does not view it as a historic development in our country. However, we ask ourselves at the same time: Will the people who have been managing the IRHE [Institute of Hydraulic Resources and Electrification] handle the Canal? Are the people who have managed the Social Security Fund [CSS] the same people who are going to manage the canal? In view of this question, we feel a deep national anguish because for us the canal is part of our historical destiny.

The day Torrijos' biography is written dispassionately, I would have no qualm about admitting that one of the aspects on which some, but not all, credit is due Torrijos is that we will recover the canal in the year 2000. However, I do not feel deep anxiety when I reflect that the system that will have to manage the Panama Canal is the same system that has managed the CSS; that has managed the IRHE: that has antagonized the educators; and that is dismantling our country's agricultural production capacity. To us, the Canal has to help recover our sovereignty and be a tool for the well-being of our people.

So, I do not think we can limit ourselves to an analysis of the crisis...

[Correa, interrupting] However, do you see any possibility of a coup in view of this crisis? What would be the solution? Some talk about a national pardon. Some talk about a constituent assembly. Others refer to changing the date of the elections to be held in 1989, that is, to advancing the date. Others refer to a government junta. Others say so many things...

[Arias, interrupting] Mayin, I would like to broach this topic frontally. I think three principles must be borne in mind to find a solution, and that the specific solution will be the result of talks among many people. First principle...

[Correa, interrupting] For instance, you would not sit down with the military...?

[Arias, interrupting] Listen. First principle: the solution must be a truly democratizing solution, not just in appearance. There have been five presidents and perhaps a sixth. [not further identified] There is no sense in this, no sense in this. We must look for a truly democratizing solution, not only one in appearance.

Second, we must look for this to the extent that it is possible to do so, maintaining a degree of basic agreement among Panamanians. Above all, we must remember that we are Panamanians; that, over and above all differences and conflicts among us, we continue to be Panamanians; and that we must look for this democratizing solution in order to maintain, build, and reinforce agreement among Panamanians. Third, we must reach for this through talks. We have never shirked, and will not shirk, talks aimed at finding a democratizing solution. This implies -- and this was very frankly mentioned by Pretto -- finding a new constitutional place within the country for the Defense Forces of Panama. [FDP].

Through Latin America, the democratization has taken place with a relocation of the military forces, but they have agreed, for their own good and that of their country, to occupy a place within the democratic institutions under the civilian authorities. I am convinced that we would find solutions were we to look for them along these paths.

[Correa] Would you agree, Mr Vasquez, with Dr Arias' stand that, in the first piace, the military forces must relinquish political power, as has happened in Argentina, Peru, and so forth, and that all forces then sit down to talk?

[Vasquez] I must explain something first, as a matter of principle. Ovidio belongs to my party. He has just said very serious things during his first turn and I want to make it clear I do not agree with them.

[Correa] Are you in agreement with the PDC?

[Vasquez] I do not agree with what Ovidio said. Maybe we agree [as heard]. I do not agree with him -- and this is not a whimsical stand. I regard myself as an expert on Latin America's problems -- from a historical perspective and not haphazardly [as heard]. [passage omitted] With regard to Dr Arias' views, I must say that we disagree, rather, that I disagree with his positions. I have serious doubts about the capacity of Panamanian political parties -- generically speaking -- to act as qualified tools to overcome crises. I tell viewers without any qualms that during my tenure in the government, and when the ill-named democratization process was going to be carried out, I was the one who said, and reiterated -- as shown by the minutes of the cabinet meetings -- that what we had to do here was to establish a system with two parties, or three at the most, because what we have here is two parties -- the ones in the government who do not want to step down, and those out of it who want to get in. There are no doctrinal differences, at least on paper.

In Panama, there are two parties that have an ideology, insofar as their goals to wield power are concerned. They are the party represented by Dr Arias and the PRD. To me, the rest do not count....

[Correa, interrupting] Don't you take the Panamenist [Authentic Panamenist Party] masses into account?

[Vasquez] Not at all.

[Correa, interrupting] So large...

[Vasquez, interrupting] Not any mass here in Panama or in Latin America. They are not a factor. I do not think the crisis can be solved through dialogue at all. [passage omitted]

[Correa] What is the solution?

[Vasquez] I see no solution. I disagree with the thesis of my friend, Manuel Antonio Noriega, that this is something unimportant. No. This is taking historical concepts very lightly. In Panama, there has been only one attempt to reach a national pact, and it was during the early times of our republic. It was when the first Panamanian Constitution was adopted. It was approved at a national convention in which there were 16 liberals and 16 conservatives. [passage omitted]

I wish we, the present Panamanians, could achieve rapprochement, but I do not see even the slightest possibility to do so, and I say this very responsibly. One thing more: I do not believe that Panama is faced with a crisis that has been worsened by what distinguished citizen Abraham Pretto has described as a crisis generated by Torrijos' government. No. I can rapidly mention five crises during each one of the decades of the republic. [passage omitted]

EL SALVADOR

GEN BLANDON INTERVIEWED ON ATTACK ON 4TH BRIGADE

PA121616 San Salvador LA PRENSA GRAFICA in Spanish 10 Apr 87 pp 2, 37

[Text] General Adolfo O. Blandon, chairman of the Armed Forces, Joint Chiefs of Staft, has said that "MAN [National Action Movement] has expressed false concepts about what occurred to the 4th Brigade in El Paraiso."

In a news conference yesterday at staff headquarters, Blandon said that a communique signed by the self-styled MAN expressed false concepts about the events concerning the 4th Brigade in El Paraiso. In addition to being false, those concepts are ill-intentioned and try to involve the Armed Forces in a political problem in which the Armed forces want to remain on the sidelines. That is the permanent concern of the military high command.

Because they say that it is time to act and not to talk, I invite the gentlemen of MAN to begin to act today instead of talking. We await them here at 0800 in the staff headquarters. This is a cordial invitation, so that together with the entire staff we can analyze the national situation and thus they can obtain the true details of the situation. Perhaps we can find a formula to improve the country's situation.

We have been fighting for 7 years, and we are the ones most interested in having peace return to Salvadoran homes. This is why we want all Salvadorans to take the necessary interest in the problem. I have always said that this is a problem of all Salvadorans and not only of one sector or one person.

The high command wants to make it clear that it will not let itself become involved in aspects that are of a political nature and with information that is false.

[Reporter] General, is there political and military coordination in the war against the guerrillas?

[Blandon] Political coordination exists, but this coordination is different from conducting the war. They are completely different things, and one must know how to separate one field from the other.

[Reporter] What happened in El Paraiso?

[Blandon] A meeting of commanders is presently being held to analyze all the circumstances surrounding the attack on El Paraiso. We have a report but not the final conclusions that will be "reached" at the level of all the commanders.

[Reporter] Do you control the area of Chalatenango?

[Blandon] When we say we control an area, it means that the terrorists cannot remain in a location for long. However, a journalist could set up a meeting with guerrillas anywhere in the country. That is not surprising.

[Reporter] How did the guerrillas move their artillery?

[Blandon] You do not understand these things well, and that is why mistakes are made. To stage an attack of that nature, you only need one mortar. It can be done at any time. The weapon has special characteristics that only military men understand.

[Reporter] Mobile tactical weapons?

[Blandon] A mortar attack can be set up in 5 or 10 minutes and in that period, 30 or 40 shells can be fired from one place. A 60-mm mortar can be carried by one man and an 81-mm mortar can be carried by three men.

[Reporter] Will the site of the 4th Brigade be changed?

[Blandon] No, on the contrary, we are working on its reconstruction.

[Reporter] Will there be a change of commanders?

[Blandon] There might be changes, but not as a result of the attack on El Paraiso.

[Reporter] The Army has the initiative on the military war but the guerrillas have the initiative on the psychological and ideological war.

[Blandon] That is debatable. Everything depends on the general results. You cannot only take into account a specific case to reach a general conclusion. You must do just the opposite. You must study what has been achieved in the country, not only in the military field but also in the "political" field, mainly regarding the progress of the democratic process and the huge efforts to achieve peace.

[Reporter] How many soldiers died?

[Blandon] The last figure that I had was 64 dead...I do not remember the number of wounded. The number of dead could have risen because the number of wounded was between 47 and 57 soldiers; I do not have the figure.

Gen Blandon gave this information yesterday in the Armed Forces Staff headquarters.

DEFENSE MINISTER COMMENTS ON GUERRILLA ATTACK

PA101932 San Salvador Canal Doce Television in Spanish 0300 GMT 9 Apr 87

[Report by Mauricio Funes -- passages within quotation marks recorded]

[Text] [Funes] Militarily speaking, the guerrillas are capable of dealing blows such as the one in El Paraiso, but they are incapable of maintaining permanent control over strategic areas from which to carry out their operations. Defense Minister General Eugenio Vides Casanova made this statement as he evaluated military operations in the wake of the FMLN's attack on the El Paraiso Garrison, Chalatenango Department:

[Vides] "We realize it is impossible to defend ourselves from a mortar attack in the evening. As you have confirmed, an action they termed an annihilation attack turned out to be only a harassment attack. The propaganda aspect of it was the main feature. We are aware we must improve security measures; we are working on that at this moment."

[Funes] The FMLN said that attack puts into perspective and even questions the somewhat triumphant claim by the Armed Forces that the guerrillas are militarily weak.

[Vides] "In my statements you must have noticed I always acknowledge that the subversives are capable of carrying out an attack every now and then. They are capable of carrying out this kind of attack, but if they had real strength they would control not only the garrison, but also the department. They will never be able to do that."

[Funes] The officer added that the operation, which began in Morazan in the wake of the attack on El Paraiso, is yielding satisfactory results for the Armed Forces.

[Vides] "We are mainly carrying out combing, control, and search operations aimed at possible terrorist installations; also, we are implementing these operations because we detected a possible attack in the area."

[Funes] Have you already detected and eliminated any such installations?

[Vides] "Yes, the Armed Forces are constantly announcing the discovery of underground weapons caches containing a number of objects. The effectiveness of our actions is reflected in the fact that (?the guerrillas have not been able to carry out) the actions we had expected."

[Funes] He also said that to counter the effects of the fourth transport stoppage decreed by the guerrillas, the Armed Forces have stepped up patrols on the country's main highways. This action is being supported by armored and airborne units.

CHARGES AGAINST OFFICERS IN MASSACRE DROPPED

PA100125 San Salvador LA PRENSA GRAFICA in Spanish 8 Apr 87 p 2

[Text] The charges against all persons implicated in the "Las Hojas Massacre" case, which took place in February 1983 in Sonsonate Department, have been dropped.

Attorney general's office representatives have confirmed this report. They stated that last week the Sonsonate lower court judge who was hearing the case dismissed the charges against 3 Army officers and 11 Civil Defense members who were implicated in the case.

According to the legal record, several witnesses had pointed to Colonel Elmer Gonzalez Araujo, Mayor Oscar Alberto Leon, Captain Carlos Alfonso Figueroa Morales, and 11 Civil Defense members as the alleged murderers of 74 peasants.

It was said this is the second time that court has dismissed the charges against these people. Moreover, the attorney general's office will again appeal the decision before the western penal chamber, which will decide if the dismissal is in order or not.

The case was reopened over a year ago at the request of the prosecutor's office. The case was linked to unspecified political matters. Several months ago, the western chamber acquitted the defendants. The attorney general's office was surprised by the decision because it feels the proof is irrefutable.

The prosecutor's office appealed that ruling, and now the court handling the case has dismissed the charges against all defendants, including the officers who were never arrested but were mentioned in the legal record.

According to the witnesses who testified, on 22 February 1983, heavily armed men dragged many people from their homes and later killed them. The mass murders took place in Las Hojas Canton, San Antonio del Monte Jurisdiction, Sonsonate Department.

The witnesses reaffirmed that 74 peasants were killed. However, judicial authorities only examined 19 bodies. Some witnesses who testified against the Civil Defense members recognized 10 of them as being present at the time of the massacre.

ORGANIZATION REPORTS GOVERNMENT ANTI-UNION PLAN

PA111644 San Salvador Radio Cadena YSKL in Spanish 1200 GMT 10 Apr 87

[Text] San Salvador -- The National Union of Salvadoran Workers, UNTS, has charged that, under the advice of the United States, there is a government plan that includes the kidnapping, disappearance, and murder of Salvadoran union leaders. The main union federation opposed to the government of president Jose Napoleon Duarte accused the U.S. Embassy of advising the government in this plan to eliminate the leadership of the union movement.

A communique of UNTS, which claims it has 250,000 members, added that this plan began on Wednesday with the capture of Blanca Guevara [not further identified] by unidentified individuals. On Wednesday, Gilberto Beltran, a State Water Supply Enterprise worker, was detained and threatened with death by armed unidentified individuals before he was able to escape, UNTS said. In the communique, UNTS complained that the government does not listen to the workers' demands. It also said Duarte's attitude brings discredit to the country. In recent months, UNTS has asked for President Duarte's resignation and for the establishment of a government with broad participation that will stop the country's 7-year-old war through the path of negotiation and dialogue.

Meanwhile, the nongovernmental Human Rights Commission has reported the arrest of two cooperative members by soldiers of the Armed Forces Transmission Training Center. The arrest took place 2 days ago in Panchmalco, southeast of the capital. The whereabouts of the two individuals are unknown. According to the humanitarian organization, the soldiers had a list of names of cooperative members who would be arrested. The organization also said that there has been an increase in arrests since 1 April.

On their part, members of the Association of Agricultural Ministry Workers threatened the Christian Democratic Government with expanding their strike to a nationwide level if they do not obtain a favorable reply to their demands. The leadership of the association said in a news conference that approximately 3,000 workers of the Agriculture Ministry have been on strike for the past 4 days demanding the fulfillment of their labor contract. They said their action has no political motives and they hope to achieve a negotiated solution.

HONDURAS

ARMED FORCES KEEP SILENT ABOUT DESERTERS

PA151701 Tegucigalpa Cadena Audio Video in Spanish 1130 GMT 15 Apr 87

[Text] The Honduran Armed Forces are keeping silent about the remarks made by deserters in Managua. An Army officer said that he personally believes that the Sandinist authorities could have forced them to lie.

The soldiers said in Managua that the Honduran Army treats them badly, does not pay them enough, and makes them work too hard. They also said that they were afraid of the consequences their action could represent for their relatives in Tegucigalpa.

Here we have a report by Francisco Javier Mejia:

[Begin Mejia recording] Fleeing from the rage of an officer and seeking a better economic future, two young Army soldiers deserted to Nicaragua this week. The Honduran Armed Forces' initial reaction was a total silence that will be longer because of Holy Week.

In Managua, where they were presented to the media, the Honduran soldiers were identified as Angel Benjamin Lopez and Alex Danilo Castro, members of the 5th Infantry Battalion. The ages of these two children-soldiers add up to 33 years. They, together with their militia companeros, were in charge of protecting the border in the Mosquitia region.

The Nicaraguan Government has made good propaganda use of this incident and emphasized some of the statements made by the Honduran soldiers making evident the existence of a logistical and training apparatus on this side of the border for Nicaraguan counterrevolutionary groups.

The two Honduran soldiers openly said that U.S. military advisers are training approximately 500 contras and the 5th Infantry Brigade in the Mosquitia region. They also said that they were afraid of the consequences that their action could bring to their relatives, because they had already been accused of spying for the EPS.

Neither soldier wants to return to Honduras because, they said, the Honduran Army treats them badly and they only get 2 lempiras per day, while the Nicaraguan rebels are treated better. They also said that many of their companeros are in similar conditions, and if they only knew about living conditions on the other side of the border they would follow their example.

An officer who works at the Tegucigalpa training school commented that the soldiers were probably forced to lie in exchange for protection from the Sandinist authorities. However, the officer admitted that if the deserters' remarks are true, then the conditions of troops in the national Army must be reviewed.

One of the Honduran soldiers who deserted said that he will remain in Nicaragua while the other said that he wants to work in Belize.

In Tegucigalpa, no one was available at the Armed Forces' Public Relations Office or the presidency's press secretariat to comment on this case. [end recording]

NICARAGUA

HONDURAN ARMY DEFECTORS PRESENTED TO PRESS

PA151940 Managua Sistema Sandinista Television Network in Spanish 0200 GMT 15 Apr 87

[Text] Two soldiers who defected from the Honduran Army were presented to the national and international media. The Nicaraguan Government admitted them for humanitarian reasons.

[Begin recording] [Unidentified defector, in progress] ...because he was told that he would be sent to jail or killed.

[Reporter] But why?

[Defector] Because they believed that we were Sandinists, that we had Sandinist friends who were brainwashing us. [end recording]

The soldiers -- Angel Rodriguez Lopez and Alex Castro Chavarria -- said they defected from the Honduran Army and turned themselves in to the Nicaraguan Government authorities because of the mistreatment and death threats they received from their commanders. They said they belonged to the Honduran Army's 5th Infantry Battalion, stationed in La Mosquitia, Honduras. They added that Honduran soldiers are trained there, together with U.S. troops and FDN counterrevolutionary forces.

[Begin defector recording] We have noticed that the contras are better off than we are, as they have more privileges and freedom. Many soldiers disagree with that. [end recording]

The two youths, who entered Nicaragua in mid-March through the Cape Gracias a Dios sector, said they are from Tegucigalpa. They admitted that the Nicaraguan authorities have treated them well.

[Begin recording] [Defector] We are fine. No one should worry about us, because we are o.k.

[Reporter] Would you return to Honduras? [end recording]

One of them said that he wants to stay in Nicaragua, while the other one said that he would like to go to Belize.

ROBELO RESIGNS FROM UNO, WILL JOIN RDN

PA142125 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 1647 GMT 14 Apr 87

[Text] San Jose, 14 Apr (ACAN-EFE) -- Alfonso Robelo announced today in this capital that with his resignation from the directorate of the anti-sandinist Nicaraguan Opposition Unity (UNO), the organization will become more cohesive, and its military wing, controlled by Adolfo Calero Portocarrero, "will be very pleased."

Calero Portocarrero, president of the FDN, the largest armed anti-sandinist group and leading beneficiary of U.S. aid to the "contras," also resigned from the UNO directorate on 16 February, due to a conflict within the organization.

Robelo said that as of now he will join the Nicaraguan Democratic Resistance (RDN) assembly, the new name the "contras" will operate under and in which his group, the Nicaraguan Democratic Movement (MDN), will be represented. This assembly, comprised of 54 members, unites the four Nicaraguan political groups in exile (conservatives, liberals, social Christians, and social democrats), Indian organizations, combat and professional organizations, private businessmen, and labor unions.

Alfonso Robelo said that with his resignation there will be greater cohesion among the "contras" and FDN leader Calero will be able to carry out a "more united" effort.

Robelo's resignation seemed imminent after Arturo Cruz resigned on 10 March after describing the "contras" as an "exclusive clique", and after Pedro Joaquin Chamorro was promoted to the UNO directorate on Calero Portocarrero's recommendation.

Cruz and Robelo sustained a strong dispute for several months with Calero over the UNO directorate, seeking to achieve a few reforms, among them the control of economic resources by UNO, the creation of a politically controlled national army, and the inclusion of other Nicaraguan groups in exile.

Anti-sandinist sources claim that Calero's resignation from UNO does not mean that he has no more influence on the organization; his presence is indirectly maintained, thus increasing existing tensions.

The "contras" plan to broaden their directorate, which has been comprised of three members from the time of its foundation in June 1985, to seven directors. Among them will be Adolfo Calero and Enrique Bermudez, military chief of the FDN and a former member of Somoza's National Guard, which was toppled in 1979 by the Sandinists. Among the directors who will allegedly comprise this new directorate are Alfredo Cesar, president of the Southern Opposition Bloc, who according to anti-sandinist sources, is currently undergoing a phase of political growth under the sponsorship of Calero and Bermudez.

Cruz's and now Robelo's resignations have come at a time when President Ronald Reagan has asked the U.S. Congress to approve $105 million in military aid for the "contras" for the fiscal period that begins in October.

Robelo has said that with Cruz' and his resignations the "contras" have lost "a great deal of influence in U.S. legislative circles."

ROBELO REPORTEDLY 'TIRED OF THANKLESS JOB'

PA150103 Hamburg DPA in Spanish 2123 GMT 14 Apr 87

[Text] San Jose, 14 Apr (DPA) -- Alfonso Robelo, who for 5 years has been a member of the political front opposed to the current Nicaraguan Government, "got tired of being involved in this thankless job and left the movement's command staff." A spokesman for Robelo told DPA today in San Jose, Costa Rica, that "Alfonso got tired of fighting against so much misunderstanding and injustice."

Robelo will continue helping the anti-sandinists. However, like Arturo Cruz, who quit 1 month ago today, Robelo is quitting the command staff so that "others, after 5 years, may now shoulder this burden." He told a group of close friends: "I will continue cooperating, but I will no longer be a top leader." Robelo lives in Costa Rica. He has several agricultural and livestock enterprises with Costa Rican associates.

Pedro Joaquin Chamorro, son of the newsman of the same name who was killed on 10 January 1978, replaced Arturo Cruz, and Enrique Bermudez, an officer of great experience, is replacing Robelo.

With Robelo's departure now, and Cruz' 1 month ago, Adolfo Calero, the top anti-sandinist leader emerges as the dominant figure of the "Nicaraguan Democratic Resistance."

ATLANTIC COAST AUTONOMY BILL DISCUSSED

PA151643 Managua Radio Sandino in Spanish 1200 GMT 15 Apr 87

[Text] The bill on autonomous regions in the Nicaraguan Atlantic Coast is a very important document for Central and Latin America, according to sources that have participated in its drafting. The document -- which was prepared after consulting the ethnic groups in the Caribbean area -- is unprecedented on the isthmus. It contains very advanced principles leading to a real and definitive resolution of the problem of protecting minority groups.

Sources close to the National Commission on Autonomy disclosed some aspects of the bill to PRENSA LATINA. They stressed that the bill will be proposed at the multiethnic assembly that will take place from 22 to 24 April in Puerto Cabezas. They added that the bill will certainly be enriched with the opinion of the Miskitos, Sumus, Ramas, Creoles, Garifonos [people of black-Indian descent], and Mestizos.

The sources noted that the document includes aspects of vital importance, such as the territorial division of the autonomous regions, rights and duties of the inhabitants of those communities, and the creation of a regional administration council. It also covers other areas, such as the budget of those territories, their patrimony and communal property, and the requirements for amending the bill, which will become a law when Nicaraguan President Daniel Ortega submits it to the National Assembly for its approval and implementation.

The sources said that some outstanding characteristics of the bill are the autonomy that the communities will enjoy. Their languages, as well as Spanish, will be officially recongnized, maintaining the unity of the Nicaraguan nation.

The document proposes as rights of the ethnic groups their total equality, the preservation of their religion and culture, and the use of their waters, forests, and communal land within the national development plans.

It is suggested that the regional council be made up of 36 representatives, who will be elected when the National Assembly convokes elections for that specific purpose through direct, free, and secret voting to be held every 4 years in 36 electoral jurisdictions.

SCIENTIFIC-TECHNICAL AGREEMENT WITH BRAZIL SIGNED

PA022018 Managua Sistema Sandinista Television Network in Spanish 0200 GMT 2 Apr 87

[Text] This afternoon the Brazilian and Nicaraguan Governments signed a scientific-technical cooperation agreement covering training and research for 5 years. This is the first agreement of this type to be signed by two Latin American countries.

The basic cooperation agreement was signed by Brazilian Ambassador (Sergio Queiros Duarte) and Jose Angel Buitrago, vice minister of foreign cooperation, on behalf of Nicaragua. The agreement involves exchange of scientific-technical information, training, and application of scientific knowledge to specific projects.

The Brazilian ambassador said the agreement permits better planning of cooperative activities. Buitrago said the document involves the possibility of bolstering cooperation between the two countries.

CASTRO ADDRESSES FIFTH UJC CONGRESS CLOSING 6 APR

PA061730 Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 0052 GMT 6 Apr 87

[Speech by President Fidel Castro at the closing ceremony of the Fifth UJC congress at Havana's Karl Marx Theater -- live]

[Text] [Applause] Distinguished guests, comrade delegates, young comrades, militants of the Communist Party of Cuba from the capital and from Havana Province:

I admit it has been an enormous surprise and an indescribable emotion to see the Bell of La Demajagua arrive here. In a few seconds' time it reminded us of a long history of struggle and, above all, of that episode -- especially now that we have honored the patriotic feelings and sense of justice of those who initiated our struggle for independence -- that gave rise to an effort to lend this bell to the students then, who organized a protest against a failing and corrupt government. To tell you the truth, on that occasion, that symbol was insulted. That action took place at dawn. Anyone would have considered that action unthinkable. They [not further identified] stole the Bell of La Demajagua from the university martyr's room. Some time later, that bell appeared at the Presidential Palace.

Therefore, how could we imagine that on a day like today we would honor that symbol again? This time, all the people, not only the students, are honoring that symbol. Today, this symbol has received the honor of a victorious revolution. This bell's presence is truly symbolic here today, at the close of this UJC congress, because I think that if we can pay a tribute that is worthy of that 10 October -- of the days when our struggle for independence began, and of those who struggled for peace, freedom, and justice in the fatherland for over 10... [corrects himself] 100 years -- that tribute would be the congress of our youth, which we have just witnessed.

More than the congress itself, the truly worthy homage is that of the Cuban youth gathered here. This is the fruit of so many struggles, sacrifices, and deaths. Those who died along the way were struggling for this. When the comrade president of the Federation of University Students [FEU] delivered the clapper of the Bell of La Demajagua today, I immediately remembered that on that day the slaves of the sugar central were freed. Today, almost 119 years later, a black student that presides over the FEU has delivered that clapper to us. For 1 second I had the idea that perhaps that youth and many youths like him -- who study, work, and struggle within our revolutions -- are perhaps descendents of the slaves freed on 10 October 1868.

I sincerely believe in the work of the revolution. Among the work of the revolution, the most brilliant of all is our youths, what they think, what they express, what they are. In our view, they constitute the dream of those founders. At a time like this, I ask myself what would have made those comrades happy who accompanied us in Moncada and who fell? What would have made all those youths happy, all those revolutionaries who gave up their lives throughout these years of struggle? I am absolutely sure nothing would have made them happier than the communist youth you represented in the fifth congress.

This congress was one of those we can term a leap in quality. We can recall the other congresses. We even remember that occasion when it was decided to adopt the name of communist. This might seem very easy today when the word communist is a respected and prestigious word loved by all our people. However, in the early years, the revolution's youth organization adopted various names, including that of the association of rebel youths. When the first congress was held -- this was after Giron and before the October crisis -- on 17 April 1961 following the sly attack of our air bases, the socialist character of the revolution was declared during the funerals of a group of valuable comrades. Our people's attitude could not have been more defiant toward the empire. That is why when the youths met in April 1962 -- knowing how much that word hurt imperialism and how much that word hurt the reactionaries -- we proposed, bearing in mind our ideals, our goals, and our objectives, that we openly call our youth organization the UJC. [applause]

Today I think that such a decision was very fitting. The youths of that time were patriotic, revolutionary, fervent, and heroic; but they did not have the levels of political education our youths have now. They did not have a communist awareness. They were not strong in theory but their willingness and determination were unyielding.

Today, all of us who have participated in congress sessions -- all comrades of the revolutionary generation who emerged after the Moncada action and some who emerged before it to whom I have spoken with these days -- believe. I am sure none of us doubt that the congress that has just concluded can quite justifiably be called a congress of genuninely communist youths. [applause]

That spirit was reflected in all of the youths and in everything they did . I believe the sessions reflected the best virtues of our youths, their courage, honesty, self-assurance, self-confidence, communist revolutionary awareness, and high cultural level. The work of the revolution and the efforts made throughout all these years were reflected in these sessions.

We did not see the youths we saw in the early years of the revolution -- peasants who had just overcome illiteracy, workers with a first-or second-grade education, and combatants, many of whom learned to read and write after the war. We saw a totally diff ent atmosphere and a different group of people.

We must mention that on that 4 April, many of you had not been born yet. Many of you, or some of you, were 2 or 3 years old, maybe 4 or 6 years old. Very few of you were 5 or 6 years old. I wonder how many times we may have met with you in schools or pioneer circles, in activities and anniversary ceremonies of pioneer and student organizations. All of you today have become delegates to our fifth congress.

Today, many of you have become cadres in the organization: in the economy, the sciences, or even in the administration. I must note that during the second congress, when we made a call to establish the pedagogical detachment to face an explosion of mid-level students, the current first secretary of the UJC was among the first ones to volunteer. [applause]

It was not strange to people like us, who have witnessed congress sessions, to see many comrades overflow in happiness there; that is a common occurrence. The comrades who had listened to the information and the discussions even embraced us. That was a way to express their happiness for what they had seen during the congress. They embraced me. I tried [Castro laughs] to figure out why. They were simply expressing their joy for the level attained by our youth. I believe this fills all of us with genuine pride.

We did not simply discuss youth problems at the youth congress. In reality, we discussed the country's problems at the congress. Party and state leaders participated in the congress. In truth, the congress looked like a party congress. [applause]

We made an in-depth examination of our problems, the economy, industry, the problems of agriculture, and not only issues that involve the youths but also those that involve the entire people's interests. We made a broad analysis of public health, the problems of education, and the problems of culture. We made an in-depth analysis of the problems related to the country's defense. Policies and lines were crossed regarding this basic issue. It was necessary to prolong the congress' sessions to have time to debate -- and at times to simply point out -- problems worth addressing. These issues were analyzed in a truly in-depth manner. The dialogue and debates supplied very good ideas that will help us in the work of the next few years.

Of course, a congress or meeting of young communists or a party congress cannot be carried out in a few brief days. The youth congress, like a party congress, goes through a gestation period; it is prepared and developed many months ahead of time. When we arrived at the congress, many of these problems had been widely discussed by the bases. Valuable criteria and ideas had been arrived at regarding a wide variety of subjects and problems. The result of this process of analysis and discussion by the bases was the preparation of the central report. The discussion of the central plan among all of the youths was already a part of the congress. There is written evidence of all that was analyzed, of all the conclusions, and the debates. It was impossible to consider each and every one of these problems at the congress, and I know that many brilliant ideas were not spoken. Many magnificent speeches could not be made. If it were possible, in practice, to prolong those 10 days to 15 days, I am sure we would have heard magnificent ideas and magnificent speeches.

With the desire to participate that the delegates demonstrated, I gather that many of them could not say what they wanted to. However, I am sure that with the words expressed during the many speeches that were made, their ideas were expressed.

In addition, the main report includes all the basic problems. I see that an essential mandate of this congress is the idea or objective of closely following the study and the analysis of all those problems included in the main report.

However, we should not think the problems we must face in the next few years are limited solely to those included in the main report or to what has been discussed in the congress. New things emerge every day. This is part of life. It forces us to be alert and attentive to deal with not only the things we already know but also the new things, the new problems that are constantly arriving.

For example, I was citing the case of the family doctors. There was nothing related to the family doctors in the fourth congress. In is an institution that has emerged after all these years. There is progress in this institution. Thousands already work in those services. Housing is being built alongside their offices for those doctors. New problems arise. There are some family doctors who do not live in the house-office. This is one of the problems that we discussed.

In the measure that this institution develops as many others, problems dealing with that institution and numerous tasks stemming from its existence will arise. The same thing will occur with each new thing -- with the youth clubs, with the video clubs, or with the teaching detachment founded 15 years ago, with each new thing and with the pre-exact sciences institutes, which is also a new institution. Different types of things and problems arise.

However, the esssential thing is that we have an excellent organization, and excellent leadership. I had the privilege of attending the meeting of the UJC National Committee that was elected at this congress at the moment when the first and second secretaries were ratified and the other members of the bureau and the control committee were elected. I certainly believe you elected excellent cadres, very capable and prestigious comrades in the committee and the directorate of the youths. The quality perceived in the congress could be perceived in the elected comrades.

It is very hard to choose from such a mass of so many invaluable comrades. The choosing of a national committee and a directorate does not mean the best have been chosen. They are undoubtedly among the best. But what has been chosen is a committee and a directorate from among the large mass that, with its great amount of revolutionary spirit and virtues, will be represented. The elected comrades signify the form of expression of a large mass of great quality. That is what we need because this congress continues. We agreed today that some topics must continue to be discussed in the youth plenums and the plenum of the national committee. It will have to face a great program of activity.

The organization of young communists really means a lot in our country. This is perfectly clear if one bears in mind that 35 percent of the labor force is young; if one bears in mind that the development of organizations of pioneers, mid-level students, and university students fall under the attention and leadership of the UJC; if one bears in mind that tens of thousands of technicians, scientists, and professionals of the most varied fields work and act in the ranks of the UJC; if one bears in mind that the vast majority of the combatants who have the task of defending the homeland and of defending the domestic order in our country are youths; if one bears in mind that in the education of our children and youths, the UJC has a decisive role; if one bears in mind the tasks that it carries out in the cultural field and the technical field with its technical youth brigades, whose number of members is already more than 300,000; if one bears in mind the frontline workers and the economic initiatives; and if one bears in mind the many publications of the UJC, magazines and newspapers addressed to children, students, and to the population -- I think many of us are subscribers and regular readers of the publications of our youths, including the newspaper JUVENTUD REBELDE.

If all of this is taken into account, one realizes why it is impossible to minimize to any degree, or underestimate in any way the role the UJC plays in our revolutionary process and our country.

I believe the party does not have an instrument among the political and mass organizations more important for its revolutionary work than the UJC.

It has been said here that we are preparing for the year 2000. Approximately 3 years ago, if I am not mistaken, during a FEEM [Federation of Intermediate Level Students] congress -- it was the FEEM, was it not -- we established the following slogan: We said that date was not so distant and that all those youths who were intermediate, preparatory, or mid-level students would be 30, 31, or 32 years old in the year 2000, and that the world we were building was for them. We said: This is your world. We made a call to think not about consumption, but about the efforts to develop the country, about investments, development, and the world they will inhabit. I explained the difficult economic situation the overwhelming majority of Third World nations were experiencing: the economic crisis, and the debt. Essentially, we wanted our youths not to allow themselves to be lured by consumerist ideas, but by development ideas. I believe that our youth assimilated those ideas very clearly.

Later, we were forced to adopt special measures to face economic difficulties that other countries were also facing. However, we had to face a situation that was worsened by 2 years of severe drought, a hurricane, low sugar prices, the drop in petroleum prices that seriously affected our foreign currency income, and other factors that forced us in this current year to carry out what we might call a truly heroic effort.

It was an effort to carry out our economic plan by importing only half of what was considered essential and had to be bought with convertible foreign exchange. We can say that we will accomplish that goal in 1987 by importing the equivalent of one-fourth of the 1984 imports. In 1984, we spent about $1.5 billion, and not only that, but at that time, the dollar was worth much more than it is now. In 1984, $1.5 billion was equivalent to $2 billion today; the dollar has experienced a 40 percent devaluation. [as heard] In other words, the other currencies we use to pay for imported products have become more expensive. The $650 million in convertible imports for 1987 are the equivalent of less than $500 million in 1984. Therefore, if we compared 1987 imports with those of 1984, we would realize they amount to about one-fourth of the 1984 imports. This mandated special measures, the plan of special measures proposed to the National Assembly at the end of 1986.

I think that reality, which did not exist when we addressed the students, gives an idea of the number of objective difficulties with which a determined Third World country in this world -- a world economically ruled primarily by the capitalist, developed countries...[changes thought] because they have imposed an unbearable load on the Third World countries. The conditions under which Third World countries must develop are truly difficult.

Therefore, the concept expressed in 1984 on the efforts that a country should make for its development -- and with eyes looking toward the future and the year 2000 -- those efforts acquire greater validity at present.

We discussed many things at the congress. However, there was no time to stress the need for those efforts, the need for efficiency in all activities, and the need to save money in general.

We have a serious task this year, a very serious task. We have to complete the sugarcane harvest. The harvest has been continuously interrupted, principally in the country's central and western areas, because of excessive rains, which did not fill the dams or aquifers, but did hamper harvest activites.

Our harvests have reached a very high level of mechanization. There are provinces that are almost 90 percent mechanized. The goal of mechanization is to free the country from the need to mobilize hundreds of thousands of citizens who had to leave the factories to join the sugarcane harvests.

Today, rainfall of 35, 40, or 50 mm halts operation in a sugar central. Some stop for a few days, others for more days, it depends. The mechanization process has advanced a great deal in the northern area of Villa Clara Province. However, we are more vulnerable too. Some climatic aspects, like untimely rains, affect the harvest process.

We are considerably behind in raw sugar production. We are behind by approximately 800,000 tons. This means that during what is left of April and during the month of May we will have to undertake extraordinary and considerable efforts. We must plant approximately 30,000 caballerias [land measure or lot of about 33 1/2 acres] of sugarcane to compensate for the effects of hurricane, drought, and the two factors together. During the months ahead -- April, May, and June -- the completion of the sugar harvest, preparing the land, and planting approximately 20,000 [number as heard] caballerias of sugarcane will require a serious effort, which we have no right to forget, no matter how satisfied and pleased we are with this congress. We are confident that we will accomplish this task and do whatever is necessary to face these new and unexpected difficulties.

We have a great task ahead. However, we will not sacrifice our future. The sacrifices required from the population have been minimal. Therefore, I must say that the sketching and implementation of the 1987 plan have been a feat under the current circumstances, as it seemed impossible because of the level of imports from the convertible area.

However, the plan was drafted in such a way that it required a minimum of sacrifice from the population. We know of the measures adopted by the National Assembly at the end of the year. Above all, we have not sacrificed development. We are working full power in the construction of the thermoelectric plants, oil explorations, chemical factories and industries, the Cienfuegos oil refinery, the electronuclear plant -- which together with the hydroelectrical plant [hidroacumuladora] will enable the country to produce 2,000 kilowatts [corrects himself] 2,000 megawatts or 2 million kilowatts, which is more than five times the capacity we had before the revolution. We are also working full power in mining activities, mechanical industries, agriculture, and have even increased and saved hydraulic energy [voluntad hidraulica] and have carried out important infrastructure works. In other words, although the programs have been carried out with very few resources, we are not sacrificing the country's development, which is very important. This is very important for our youth who are preparing for the year 2000.

Not only that, but by adopting some basic measures and rescuing that tremendous force represented in the microbrigades, we are resolving very important problems, such as the beginning of a very ambitious housing plan starting in the capital of the Republic. Despite the 1984 and 1985 imports, we built approximately 3,500 houses a year in the capital. We did not reach 4,000. The state carried out this project. The microbrigades will build 5,000 new houses in 1987. These 5,000 houses will be in addition to the ones that were already under construction.

In addition, an ambitious plan to expand medical facilities has been implemented. We are building 50 child care centers -- which is more than what had been planned for the entire country for the present 5-year period. We are building two schools, ten polyclinics... and as we mentioned here, other activities such as video clubs, student clubs, student centers. We are making the best use of the few resources available, which are less than normal. We have been doing much more through the manpower available with the creation of the microbrigades. This in no way has affected the production costs at the factories. In fact, the idea exists that the factories should be reimbursed and the salaries paid to the microbrigades; that the state should reimburse this, so that it will not have any effects on the costs and profitability of the enterprises.

On the other hand, it stimulates rationalization and the interest of labor centers in sending men and women to the microbrigades. We have thus resolved the work force problem, provided answers, and stimulated positive things, without which there would not be any economic or social development possible.

In fact, the construction enterprises had lost their workforce in the Republic's capital. They had lost it. In 1987 there are some 2,000 to 3,000 workers from the provinces who have come to give a hand in important economic and social projects. The housing construction enterprises had lost their workforce. The architectural enterprises engaged in projects of social interest had lost their workforce. Those who built industrial projects had also lost their workforce.

In other words, in such difficult working conditions, it is a feat to carry out the 1987 economic plan, a difficult feat that is. Sometimes obtaining raw materials becomes very difficult, in particular, if the people are not to be greatly inconvenienced, or if development plans are not to be sacrificed, something which is very important.

More things are being done; important problems are beginning to be resolved. Important cash savings are being achieved from overpayments that were being effected and from money that was being squandered. All this is a result of the process of correcting mistakes and the struggle against negative trends begun after our party's third congress.

The word correcting is well used here. We do not need to use many words to describe this concept. It is not just the correction of mistakes, or the struggle against negative trends; it is the elimination of stupidities. In other cases there was a lack of principles. All of this is included under negative trends. There was a huge disorder: a crane would appear here, another one there. This was reported on 19 April -- nearly 1 year ago. How were we going to describe this? They were errors, violations of principles, irresponsibilities, and crimes against the economy of the people.

I believe that truly negative trends are being corrected. They are being corrected now and we must continue to energetically struggle against these trends and errors. New criteria and concepts have been established that outline our path. Many things were not changed [innovando]; in fact, we were only demanding that already established guidelines be followed, within the direction and planning system of the economy.

The direction and planning system of the economy can be better or worse, more efficient or less efficient. However, in our case, in our country, the serious thing was that there was a direction and planning system with its virtues and defects [as heard]. I must confess there are many defects; but an effort is being made to correct them also. The negative and serious thing was the belief that mechanisms would automatically resolve the problems. This was the idealistic belief -- the stupid belief -- that the mechanisms would do the party and man's work, or that mechanisms were going to build socialism, or that mechanisms were going to promote development.

I believe I mentioned an example during our congress of how mechanisms can conflict with society's interests. Here it became quite clear that those who had to distribute books or loudspeakers to the schools would sell them to the cultural groups. It was better business. They did not care. They were only interested in making a profit. They began acting as capitalists and could not care less if the speakers reached the schools or not. There was no way of getting a loudspeaker to a school. The moment they received the money they bought them and brought them [as heard]. They would enter this mechanism [mecanismo] where no one would know where the speakers would end up.

We noticed strange things. For example, we noticed the enrollment of little girls in dance classes cost 30,000 pesos in a state-administered school, that is, an entity of the socialist state. This is unusual. We discovered that our flamboyant capitalists-to-be were not interested in teaching and, for that matter, our universities might as well be shut down because despite superior orders they claimed the job was not to their advantage and it was an obstacle. They complained about the link between wages and production. Therefore, the socialist state -- in view of this incredible situation -- has been prevented from using installations owned by all the people and the socialist state to allow students from state universities, which are the universities of all the people, to teach.

We have often encountered parasitical institutions in which the interests of the business sector clashed with those of society everywhere. We have often encountered many similar cases. In fact, this was the reason why there was no parsley in the market and other cases in which only profits were the objective. What does this have to do with socialism? What does it have to do with the revolution?

The error does not have so much to do with the mechanisms, because we must have certain mechanisms to maintain controls and rigorously determine costs and gauge the efficiency of an institution. That requires certain mechanisms. An example is that cultural activities mean business. An individual decides where to hold a show, how to increase profits, what countries to visit, and what countries not to visit because of cultural and political reasons. There is an indefinite number of examples of this. It is very naive to think that the creation of several mechanisms to correct capitalist mechanisms will solve the problems of socialism and development. I would add that it is highly stupid to think so. If we believe we can do without the work of the party, the people, and the revolution then we cannot place those mechanisms before the objectives of the revolution or party. [sentence as heard] All those mechanisms must be subordinate to the party and the revolution.

Whenever there is conflict between the interests of a business establishment and those of the revolution and society -- be it in the distribution of loudspeakers, books, or whatever; be it to allow students to study in a factory or agricultural establishment -- the interests of the revolution and society must prevail. If there were no stupid students of capitalism, if a genuinely revolutionary spirit prevails and regardless of where he is or how many mechanisms are necessary -- a communist would never allow the interests of a business concern to clash with the most sacred interests of society. [applause]

These ideas are fundamental. That is why we were discussing the revolutionary teaching of Marxism-Leninism. It is a revolutionary theory that must be implemented consistently and in a revolutionary way. There are principles that cannot be forgotten. I believe our youth and party cadres and professors of Marxism-Leninism must think about the dynamic, consistent, and revolutionary implementation of Marxist-Leninist ideas.

I need not be told that men interpret ideas in many different ways. However, we must have our own way of interpreting the revolutionary ideas of Marxism-Leninism. [applause] I believe the revolution is old enough for that. The revolution has enough experience for that. It has enough experience to know that to be a revolutionary is an attitude, a behavior born from a spirit, a consciousness. That is not born simply from a bookish culture. That is not born from cramming or from intoxicating the brain with ideas that are simply theoretical. I believe revolutionary theory must receive its due importance. We cannot allow this most essential part of the revolution -- which is essential for the future and essential in youths more than in anyone else -- to be weakened in any way. The need for a solid theoretical education, for a solid theory at the level of political culture and political interpretation, and the capacity to implement those ideas with a creative spirit is very important and decisive. We must look at how we educate our youth.

A great deal has been said about the value of setting an example. It is all true. There can be a professor teaching Marxism for 400 hours per semester if he likes. However, if he sets a bad example for his students, all the books and 400 hours of Marxism-Leninism are useless. [applause]

The importance of setting a good example was a strong conclusion of the congress. Setting the example is a way of implementing theory. It is a way of educating new generations. It is enormously important. What is done and what is said cannot contradict one another. Setting the example creates virtures and revolutionary spirit. Sometimes we have fallen prey to the nonsense -- similar to believing socialism is built and a country developed simply with mechanisms -- we have committed the foolishness of believing that a revolutionary is trained by cramming him with revolutionary maxims and ideas. There must be more than that. A rectification is due, through which we will really understand how a revolutionary consciousness is forged and through which facts will match revolutionary theory. I believe progress is being made in this process, although much more progress must be made.

This is a long and arduous struggle, not of a month, a day, or a year but of every day and every year. We cannot at any moment fall prey to the delusion that socialism and communism can be built without the party, without the dedicated work of the party and of youths, without revolutionary work and political work. Because on one hand, we can believe we are developing the country and increasirg its wealth, while on the other hand we are corrupting men.

The construction of socialism implies using mechanisms and formulas that adapt to a historical moment or circumstances, to a period of transition. Our doctrine -- which is undoubtedly the most beautiful, most revolutionary [coughs], and most humanistic that has ever existed -- strives for a communist society. I believe youths must think hard about this, about how communism is attained. Is it not attained? Will humanity renounce the objectives of communism in the face of the realities of determined material limitations and the realities of determined characteristics of man?

We discussed some of this during our meeting with the journalists. There is still no communist society. We said communist society could not be built on the somewhat coarse and mediocre idea that communism can be built by virtue of an unlimited abundance of material goods and wealth. Communism will also have to be built with consciousness and education. Because no one knows what...[changes thought] that an unlimited abundance of material goods will never exist. [sentence as heard]

Then there are problems like environmental pollution, depletion of nonrenewable resources, minerals, and energy, etc. The world now has so many inhabitants, so much poverty and hunger, ignorance, disease, unemployment, and tragedy in which billions of people live immersed in the reality that the limitation of economic resources or even material resources cannot be ignored. One has to reject the idea that there could ever be all the material goods man imagines.

We have asked many times if the Third World countries can accept a model of capitalist society, of the developed capitalist society, of society that was formed at a certain point in history. Would they accept the plundering of a major part of humanity? Would they accept the plundering of whole continents; or the so-called consumer society with an automobile for every family? Just imagine China trying to get every family in China an automobile, or India devising a development plan for its society so that every family would have an automobile. Just estimate how long all world oil would last if societies that have 1 billion -- and together have several billion [inhabitants], adopt the living, behavior, and consumption standards of the capitalist, imperialist West that exploits the Third World.

Everybody knows the reason for the levels of abundance and squandering those societies have reached. They cannot be a model for Third World countries, not models of development or of standards of living. They cannot be models in any way whatsoever for Third World societies even if they build socialism or set out to build communism. Under capitalism, sometimes 25, 30, 40, 45, or 50 meters are not enough because there is actually a limit to the needs of human beings for clothing and food -- all the rest is the result of capitalist fantasy and invention and of the capitalist model -- and also a limit to those populations' needs for food -- in the first place -- as well as housing, education, health and everything, recreation, employment -- they do not even have jobs. [sentence as heard]

If a Third World society manages to solve these fundamental problems it will have taken a historic, huge step. If human society manages to meet its rational needs of all of these things -- food, clothing, health, education, housing, recreation, and transportation it will have really gotten close to a historic goal -- which man, for the first time, has been able to set out to solve in more recent times. You know that in many of these capitalist consumer societies many people endure many material and human hardships of all types -- discrimination, inequality, racial or sexual discrimination, unemployment, inequalities of all kinds, injustices of all types. In these famous consumer societies there are multimillionaries and beggars, vices of all kinds, drugs of all types, alienation of every nature.

We must set for ourselves the goals of an economic, social, and material type which a Third World society must set for itself in today's world, in today's real world. I think that in setting these goals, in understanding these goals, and in pursuing these goals education and conscience have a fundamental role. I think our revolution's vigor and future will depend on the degree to which the new generations are capable of developing a truly revolutionary conscience. Some have expressed much happiness and satisfaction over this congress. I think that was more than a passing emotion, something more than a passing feeling of elation.

I think the satisfaction expressed by many of our generation's comrades and their responses to each question regarding the congress went a little further, a little closer to the bottom of the issue. There is a feeling of security. The idea is that this new generation -- which is the work of the revolution, a fruit of the revolution, and a daughter of the revolution -- is more revolutionary, more deeply revolutionary than the generation that carried out the revolution. Its ideas are more advanced and more profound.

Apparently what these comrades felt was something called certainty, the certainty that after each one of them is gone, or let us say, the certainty that after all of us are gone what will come will be better and more solid. If we have ever thought this generation is a guarantee of the revolution -- this generation, the one that began it -- if it has ever been thought, I repeat, that it is a guarantee, and if our enemies believe that this is a very radical and intransigent generation, then what must have made so many comrades happy is the thought that this generation is an even more solid guarantee of the revolution and of the continuation of revolution in our homeland. [applause]

We must beware of man's tendency to feel too important, to feel indispensible, or to feel irreplaceable. You and I have been really privileged to have survived the first years of the revolution and to have participated in this project for a long time. Of course, all of us were about your age when the struggle began and even when the struggle ended -- we mean the first phase of struggle of course.

Our...[changes thought] I am saying we must protect ourselves from those temptations. Of course, we cannot deny that the prolonged existence of a revolutionary generation alongside this project has been useful. It provided the youths the opportunity to act, make mistakes, correct mistakes, learn, etc, etc. However, pondering these things with equanimity, calmness, [chuckles] and objectivity, the role of men in this historical process is limited to a space of time. All men must be concerned about their work; for example, our generation is concerned about the revolutionary project. Afterwards, you too will have to be concerned, as we are now, about the revolutionary project, and whatever may come after you.

What are the little pioneers going to do? Those in nursery school, first, second, and third grades? What are they going to do in 20 or 25 years? Undoubtedly, the good discussions of the congress touched on such a delicate matter. We could call it security in the social program. I think that although it is ridiculous and vain for some men to regard themselves as indispensible, irreplaceable, etc, it is legitimate for men to be concerned about their work and projects and about the durability of those things -- most of all if this concern stems from the conviction that this is the most humane and fair project. I think you were touching on that matter in your speeches during the congress because of the quality of those speeches.

I think this is the secret of the happiness and satisfaction of so many comrades. There is no other way to express it than to delve into revolutionary ideas and feelings of each new generation. There is need to delve even deeper into this. This revolution would be the most privileged of all revolutions with this. Indeed, it seems to me our revolution will be among the most privileged revolutions because we are seeing that new generations are delving into revolutionary ideas and feelings.

On a day like today, when you communists youths, communists [repeats himself] mark the 25th anniversary of this title, it is fitting to exort our youth to be worthy of this name or label, and to be more and more communist. In today's and tomorrow's world, being a revolutionary means, and will increasingly mean, being communist. [applause] To be communist has an increasingly revolutionary meaning. You have lived like communists during these days, with communist honesty, frankness, integrity, values, feelings, and ideals. This demands a deepening in the theory and practice. We are very pleased by how you have taken initiatives. You have performed labor feats, spent thousands of hours doing voluntary work, and have very clearly discussed deviations, errors, and negative tendencies. I have been very pleased by the spontaneous natural way you have expressed a communist spirit.

Also, you know that conquering the future, the establishment of a more fair and much more humane human -- do not mind my redundancy -- society is not an easy task. You have reviewed everything. You have talked about and pointed to all problems. When discussing an agricultural enterprise, you discussed the problems of agricultural enterprises. When discussing a sugar mill, you discussed the problems of the sugar mills, quality controls, organizations, duties, and training. Socialism or communism is very different from capitalism. Blind laws prevail in the capitalist system; the survival of the fittest and the law of the jungle prevail in the capitalist system. Dumb people disappear. They die. Lazy people die or are crushed. There is no mercy in capitalist society. That society functions on its own with its problems and contradictions based on merciless laws. Socialism is something different. Man does not act moved by hunger, despair, or the fear of dying without work or that his family will die without a doctor, medicine, education, or anything! Man has to work like mad because he has to have a modicum of security. Socialism [chuckles] cannot function that way. A communist society cannot be built that way. Socialism is something totally different because everything is fundamentally rooted in conscience, solidarity, cooperation among men, and the struggle against individualism and selfishness.

The people have to become organized and prepared. The people have to be requested to do things. It is a struggle against negligence, irresponsibility, and insensitivity. When you have analyzed school, health, educational, and cultural problems. The UJC congress made a critical examination of what was going wrong, the reasons why things were going wrong, and the measures that had to be taken to correct problems. That is the idea of effort.

Our comrades raised various matters. They wondered why certain things were happening, why certain other things were not happening in other places, etc. Of course, many of those things have logical and valid explanations. There are others that cannot be solved unless one fights them vigorously.

We had the impression that you knew what was going wrong, why, and what measures had to be taken to resolve those problems. We had the impression you knew what each of you, and youths in general, should do. You were honest enough to clearly admit the communist youths were often responsible for the problems since they did not pay close attention to certain things such as schools and detachments and they did not work along with teachers and students, or they did not work in factories, or they did not fight bad things or negative tendencies. I also admit that often our workers, party militants, and youths in general were confused, because they saw things that seemed to be an established rule. For instance, when people started to earn five times what they should earn, when others started to earn about 50,000 to 100,000 pesos at the peasant markets, when others began to earn a lot of money by setting up individual small shops, and when some others began to earn hundreds of thousands of pesos selling paintings, ornaments, I imagine there were a lot of people who were a little surprised. They would have been telling themselves: Well, all this must be correct because it is an established pattern.

Of course, that is something else. The development of negative trends is the responsibility of the party's leadership and the people in general. Some of those negative things were true embryos of vipers, and we did not know how much poison they brought until they grew up, made noise, and bit. [applause] We did not know what kind of hatching of vipers was developing until we realized they would buy a house here, another there, that they had thousands of pesos, the dance of the millions of pesos, etc. Then we said: There is something wrong here! This is not functioning at all! We have to review this, we said. We have to review all these causes and phenomena to have a healthier climate and begin to live in a healthier atmosphere.

However, a sounder atmosphere entails the solution of the problems, a correct and revolutionary solution of the difficulties. We explained that aspect today in the session in which we talked about certain agricultural aspects such as vegetable production, etc. To commit oneself is a very serious issue because no one can return to the idea that the mechanics are going to do the job. The work has to be done by the party, the youths, and the mass organizations. They have to do the work.

I told myself: I have observed a lack of fighting spirit, but the problem is there has been a lack of fighting spirits indeed. That situation has been observed among party militants and young communists. Obviously, the atmosphere of confusion contributed to the negligence and slackness of the discipline. I would even dare to say the confusion contributed to the enervation of discipline.

Today we were discussing the meaning of the world enervation [enervamiento]. I had doubts about the meaning of that word, so I asked experts, scholars; I asked [Jose Ramon Machado Ventura, member of the Communist Party of Cuba Politburo]; I asked the ones on the left and the ones on the right; I even asked Carlos Rafael [Rodriguez, Cuban Vice President]. Well, everybody told me: Enervation means excitement of the nerves, this and that. I looked for the word in the dictionary. [applause] This is why I brought the dictionary here; this is why I brought it. Some thought I was bringing a book on capital, a bible, or something here. They asked me: What are you bringing there? [crowd laughs] I replied: I have a dictionary here.

Enervation: to enervate, debilitation. Enervating: that which enervates or weakens. To enervate: to debilitate, to reduce the strength of an argument, making something incorrect because of nervousness. The dictionary says it is a mistake to confuse to enervate with making nervous. The dictionary also lists the antonym of to enervate: to strengthen. [applause]

We had so many professors at our congress and yet we were not sure of the meaning of that word, and they deceived us. [crowd laughs] They told us the opposite meaning. This is why, I want to say that we experienced the enervation of the revolutionary guard and the revolutionary spirit throughout these years. Everybody frankly admitted ...[changes thought] as I have said before, during those years when the amount of voluntary work declined and many other things also did, and I do not mean that we have to do voluntary work at all hours and all the time, like an imposition. No. However, it is an activity that has become a natural practice in our revolution. Earlier, people were asked to clean somewhere, and they said: Pay me this and that. Pay me. And pay me -- and there was no one here who was willing to do work without being paid a bunch of money, 1 regulation, 2 regulations, 17 regulations, and the administrators giving money here and there. [sentence as heard] I would like to see how we are going to develop communism that way? I would like to know how we are going to develop a communist conscience in that way. In this way, they are only going to lead the revolutionary spirit toward corruption and decadence.

That is the truth. There was certain enervation of discipline, but in that period I would say the revolutionary spirit sought refuge in the defense activities, in the mobilization of territorial militia troops, and combative readiness. We certainly spent millions of hours at those activities. By the way, when I was saying we had not sacrificed either development or the population, what I really should have said is that we did not sacrifice the plans for the country's defense at all. We continued vigorously working in that field. We built fortifications; we prepared the country. That is a task we can never give up.

Our people's revolutionary spirit sought refuge in those activities during those years. You were brave enough to analyze all those things frankly at the congress.

I truly believe it was of great political and cultural importance. When you talk about the year 2000, I believe you must understand the great importance of an intensive political preparation and of a deep revolutionary, socialist, and communist awareness. You must prepare the generations to come, those who are members of the pioneers and of FEEM [Federation of Intermediate Level Students]. You must especially perpare the pioneers and those in FEEM as well.

You must understand the importance of being equipped with an intensive scientific and technical preparation. These are two essential requirements for the year 2000, independently of what we do today in matters of development in the field of energy, mechanical industry, and agriculture. We have to do even more.

You all saw how a comrade, a representative of the Matanzas thermoelectric plant youth, explained the importance of the plant for the economy. We also learned about the importance of the nuclear power plant, and of the Cienfuegos and Santiago de Cuba refineries. They are all important.

We have to work hard from now on and not have consumerist illusions, which have nothing to do with the desires of young people to use their free time in a healthy way. We should not all think about staying in Varadero during July and August. It is perfectly possible for us to go to Labra and other beautiful, pleasant, and calm areas with our families. These are places where no drugs or alcoholic beverages are consumed.

There are many ways for us to use our resources wisely, such as student clubs or youth circles, which work with little money and few resources. Even though it has been a difficult year, child care centers and clinics in special schools are being built. We have used human and material resources efficiently. You must not forget that work creates wealth. Where there is work, many problems can be resolved. It is the opportunity for women architects, engineers, doctors, and other highly prepared women to solve the problems in recreational activities. These women, who make up almost 50 percent of the technical work force of the country, may participate in this job. The youth circles are very valuable to our economic and social development. Many things can be resolved, and they do not involve consumerist desires, but the rational use of the resources to improve our living conditions as much as possible. There are many fake economists who do not understand that a botanical garden in itself reflects a standard of living, simply because it cannot be measured in tons of cement or steel. The fact that 100,000 people visit Lenin's park each week can be considered a standard of living here or in any other place in the world. [sentence as heard] Anyone who visits a botanical garden, a museum, a zoo, a circus, or a city full of trees has improved his standard of living. This is a standard of living of the highest quality. The standard of living cannot only be measured from a material point of view. Standard of living includes a series of elements that go beyond the satisfaction of basic needs. Standard of living is education, culture, health, happiness, security, and all those things that -- by the way -- are not abundant in developed capitalist societies.

We can make progress in standards of living without consumerist illusions for material things that are impossible and even absurd in a world with so many problems, needs, and tragedies. For this reason, in addition to the socioeconomic plans for which youths must be increasingly concerned, they must also be interested in the economic development, economic efficiency, savings, reduction of costs, and the proper use of the mechanisms available to the country. All this is important. It is especially important to arrive at the year 2000 with a very deep revolutionary awareness and with a high scientific-technical level.

In the congress, we talked about computers and their importance. We talked about introducing computers to higher education and about the advantages of computers for productivity. Socialism would be difficult to develop fully without computers. Socialist countries need it even more than capitalist societies, and capitalist societies could not live without computers. That is why we talked about the importance of introducing them to the universities. It has already been introduced to intermediate-level schools. We have had the privilege of having computers in exact sciences preparatory schools. For the next period, we have almost 40,000 students enrolled in those schools. It is wonderful to have 310,000 students in technical brigades. We must take hold of technique and we must develop the revolutionary theory. We must improve our political organizations. The youths themselves are a great example in this regard. You are already playing an important role in society, and we have already mentioned all the things you currently have. This role will continue to grow each day. Youth organizations are doing a good job. They are responsible for important institutions in our country. You have the committees and the organization of an excellent school to prepare you for participating in the party.

You must perfect these institutions; you must accumulate experience. We have acquired experience over a span of years, but we started from a further, more backward time than yours. If you tell me your ages now, the experiences you are acquiring now, the revolutionary and political practice you have had, within 15 or 20 years you will have an enormous store of experiences. You can continue perfecting these institutions but you will have to face problems as they come, you will have to take over the responsibilities that we have now. Even now, you have many of the responsibilities that we have, and you must carry out many of the most important tasks that we have. If the comrades felt optimistic when they saw you debate, when they saw you exhibit such high levels of learning, intelligence, and capability, it seems to me, comrades, that they were right to feel optimistic, and I share their opinion. You have had the good fortune and privilege to be on the threshold of the year 2000; the year 2000 that has been so spoken about in this truly difficult and complex world; in a world that today is waging a great battle for survival, in a world that is debating whether the tens of thousands of nuclear weapons threatening to exterminate humanity should be suppressed and eliminated.

We are also living in one of the most dangerous eras in the history of mankind. Our country has survived more than 20 years and will survive many more years. No one could foresee this, especially because of the imperialist threat. It is not that I am advocating an indefinite enmity toward any country. Some day, perhaps, wiser politicians will be more aware of the realities, of how useless the aggressions, harassment, and threats against our fatherland have been until now, how all of this has turned into strength for our country. Because this gentleman [not further identified] threatened us, and because he increased his threats, how much stronger have we not become in these years; how much more have we not multiplied our strength; how much more have we not become a bone that is not only to hard to chew on, but one that is impossible to chew on? [sentence as heard] [applause]

As the result of the imperialist threats, the Nicaraguan and Salvadoran revolutionaries have become much stronger. They have not been crushed despite the torrent of weapons, resources, and money that the genocides in those countries have received. They are stronger, more powerful, and more experienced.

If some day the imperialists become aware of this, they will become aware that today we are a sort of moral vengeance for the oppressed of this world. As I have already said, I told recent visitors to use us. I know the imperialists too well, and I know how nervous they get when a delegation visits Cuba, when there is a little smile for Cuba, a greeting for Cuba. [applause] The imperialists do not respect the docile or submissive. I would tell them to use us if they want to solve some problems. They will get nervous immediately. This is what we told our Dominican friends, from whom the imperialists ruthlessly withdrew their sugar quota. We told them that if they must store their resources, the international organizations should provide for their needs to compensate them for the losses and sacrifices. There has recently been a large wave of Dominican visitors in our country, and relations between our countries are improving because of the acceptance of that country's current government, which had had a similar attitude some time ago. I told them to use us to make them nervous.

I see that the imperialists use us to make them nervous. We already have become a source of nervousness for imperialism. [laughter] Every time the Dominicans want to avenge one of their outrages, they make overtures toward us, friendly overtures toward our country, and this drives the Yankees out of their minds. Now the Yankees are furious because they wanted this continent to remain as it was 30 years ago. They did not notice the changes and the impressive steadiness of the Latin American countries, which refused to adhere to the despicable campaign against our fatherland. They refused to adhere to the imperialists' dirty, uncivic, and immodest maneuvers against our fatherland. They attempted to portray us as an example of human rights violators. How far the cynicism of the U.S. imperialists went, the cynicism of the empire that used its NATO allies in this effort. These allies, en masse, accused Cuba. Accused Cuba of what? They accused us -- on behalf of the most brutal imperialist country in history; on behalf of the system that enslaved black Africans and kept them in bondage for such a long time, even after having issued its famous Declaration of Independence in which it referred to man's inalienable right to freedom; on behalf of the system that exterminated the Indians in the country; the system that insulated, humiliated, and discriminated against the black and hispanic minorities; the empire responsible for the deaths of millions of children the world over as a result of its rapacious exploitation; responsible for the hunger, unsanitary conditions, and lack of education of billions of people in the world; the country that attacked Vietnam and dropped more bombs on that country than all those used in World War II; the country that invaded Grenada; the country waging the dirty war against Nicaragua; the country that intervened in Santo Domingo; the country that is trying to murder a head of state's family in Libya; the country of Star Wars and nuclear weapons -- they accused us, trying to present the political process that has done the most in the entire history of our country and in all this continent's history in favor of its people's human rights as a violator of human rights. [applause, crowd chants: "Fidel stand firm; Hit the yankees hard!"]

It is the country that has reduced infant mortality to less than 15 per every 1,000 live births. It is the country that has increased the life expectancy of the entire population to more than 74 years. It is the country that is assigning a doctor for each family. It is the country that has built thousands of schools, polyclinics, and hospitals. It is the country where 300,000 are in higher studies. It is the country that has eradicated gambling, prostitution, begging, and drugs. It is the country that has eradicated poverty in rural and urban areas. It is the country that has no slums.

It is the country that created employment for all its citizens. It is the country that has increased the level of learning to a minimum of nine grades, and in many cases to 12 grades. Any visitor who tours our factories can ask any young worker and he will probably say he graduated from 12th grade. Seven or 8 out of 10 workers have graduated from the 12th grade. Those with the least schooling have graduated from ninth grade.

How could this country be presented as a case of violation [of human rights]? It is a country where there has never been a disappeared person. It is a country where there has never been a single person tortured, regardless of what those infamous and despicable people and CIA agents say. As I have told you, the first one who would not tolerate a case of torture in our own country...[changes thought] and when some dare to express the vile [applause] slander about tortures in our prisons, what causes us the most indignation is the insult to our people that it entails because our people were educated in the revolutionary struggle and carried out the revolution on the basis of the respect for human dignity and most intransigent respect for man's integrity. That is why we can state that not even during or after the war or at any time has there ever been a single case of a prisoner who has been the subject of physical abuse. I think it would be hard to find in history such a clean page as that of our revolution. All our people know this. Some fools and sometimes some people of good faith ask about this; I say go to the streets and ask the citizens what goes on here, ask those who fought in Giron and captured there 1,500 traitorous mercenaries who sold out to Yankee imperialism without touching a hair of one of them. I ask myself what other country has written such pages in the history of the liberation struggle, in the revolutionary history? Not even our Latin American forefathers, because even Boliver, whom we admire so much, in the defense of the independence of the Latin American peoples declared a war to the death against the Spaniards simply because they were Spaniards.

There is no record, there is no precedent, in the history of the Latin American revolutionary movement of such an irreproachable conduct as that of our country. This is an attempt to place in the defendant's chair a country whose sons have not hesitated to shed their blood and sacrifice their own lives to help the cause of the independence and liberation of another country. This is a country that has more than 1,000 doctors working in almost 30 countries of the Third World, saving lives and fostering health. This is a country that has the highest rate of foreign scholarship holders per capita in the world: 22,000 foreign scholarship holders in the middle schools and university schools, helping to resolve other peoples' problems of health and training of technicians.

The imperialist government is so shameless that it tries to place us in the defendant's chair, using all its influence. It used all possible threats among the members of the commission, threatening to suspend credits and aid and to block credits and resources in international organizations; making economic, political, and every type of threat; and acting like a Mafia along with NATO, with the cooperation of countries where at all times the police use tear gas -- those super-democratic countries of Europe, which use dogs, rubber bullets, and tear gas against students, workers, and pacifists; those countries that plunder and exploit the world. With an evident lack of national dignity and independence, they joined the vile maneuver of Yankee imperialism. Despite everything, they were unable to obtain the majority of votes they expected. They were angry and furious, and they insulted governments for not joining their maneuvers. They were mistaken.

They thought Latin America was that of 28 years ago. They thus clashed with the resistance, the dignity, and firmness of the vast majority of the Latin American governments. Only Costa Rica joined the miserable campaign of imperialism. That naturally made the Yankees furious; it greatly angered them. They do not know there is an erupting volcano in this hemisphere, that the rebellion is gestating as a result of so much abuse, injustice, exploitation, protectionism, plunder, debts, and dumping [preceding word in English].

They have created the conditions that give rise to the rebellion and unity of this hemisphere. That is why I say that perhaps one day they will discover how stupid they have been with that policy of threats and aggressions against our fatherland.

Perhaps one day they will have better counsel; that is why we say we do not advocate eternal hostility between the United States and Cuba. But should we ever live in peace -- if that ever happens -- we would not neglect our defenses; we would not forget for 1 second that we owe our integrity to our independence; that we owe our existence to our determination to defend ourselves; to the determination of every man and woman in this country to struggle, fight, and die [applause] to defend the revolution and the fatherland.

We will not forget that in this world, where the law of the jungle still prevails, only those who never falter in fighting and defending themselves are respected. Therefore, even if we live in peace one day, we would continue building trenches and tunnels, accumulating weapons, and preparing the people.

We will not be deceived by the illusions of peace of a powerful neighbor that on any given day might be tempted to attack our country after one of its numerous administration changes. We live in a complex hemisphere and international situation; we live in an explosive hemisphere. We have a powerful neighbor; our future generations must be prepared, very well prepared in all aspects. They must master revolutionary political theory and the sciences and technology. They must know how to tackle each situation and problem.

They must be aware of the complex and difficult times in which we live, of our powerful neighbor, and the explosive hemisphere that surrounds us. We must be prepared for that world. That is the world of the year 2000. That is the world of the years between now and the year 2000.

Our youths must be prepared for that reality and that world. If we look back in retrospect, we see the developments of the past 25 years since we decided on this name. We see the progress made at each congress. Today we said you must continue making profound analyses of these problems in the next few years in each plenum of the UJC national committee.

You must now set your sights on the sixth congress; on reporting about work done in these arduous, complex, and difficult years; in these years that have been decisive for our future; a future that we would not sacrifice despite the circumstances; that future for which we have worked so hard.

Today's problems -- these lean times, droughts, hurricanes, and low prices -- must be faced with a minimum of exports; they must motivate us to save more, to use more efficiently human and material resources available to us. We must draw lessons and experiences from these trying times. They will be even more useful to us when objective conditions become more favorable.

That is why I say we must start now to work each day and minute knowing that in 5 years, which will be 5 years of progress in all aspects, the youths must report about their activities. They will report on how they fulfilled the commitments made in this congress to the youths and the party.

In closing, I wish to say that we will leave this meeting with unforgettable memories; with an admiration, appreciation, and pride for our youths that has multiplied, because starting today, all of us will work and struggle with greater strength and optimism. Each one of us will give every ounce of energy to further the cause of the revolution, socialism, and communism. This additional effort will be motivated by the extraordinary and unforgettable impressions that we have received from you at this fifth congress.

Fatherland or death! [crowd shouts with Castro: We will win!] [applause]

CARICOM LABOR MINISTERS END MEETING IN BELIZE

FL142230 Bridgetown CANA in English 1742 GMT 14 Apr 87

[Text] Belmopan, Belize, April 14, CANA -- Caribbean Community (Caricom) labour ministers voiced concern about the dumping of nuclear toxic waste and other industrial garbage from the developed world in the area during a meeting here last week.

A communique issued after the Thursday-Friday talks in Belize City noted concern about the occupational safety and health of the region, and the dangers to the region which could result from it being used as a dumping ground for toxic and other wastes from industrialized countries. One official who attended the meeting said the United States had been dumping waste in the area and that Caribbean leaders were becoming more worried about the situation.

The labour ministers also focused attention on the need to provide support services for small enterprise development. They endorsed a project proposal for the establishment of regional support services through cooperatives, community-based projects, and income-generating projects such as those promoted by women's bureaus in the region and with the support of national development foundations and private voluntary organizations.

BARBADOS

TAX TREATIES WITH JAPAN, FRG, SWEDEN SOUGHT

FL091726 Bridgetown CANA in English 1413 GMT 8 Apr 87

[By Hallam Hope]

[Text] Bridgetown, Barbados, April 8, CANA -- Barbados is moving to establish double taxation treaties with West Germany, Japan and Sweden, Finance Minister Dr Richie Haynes announced last night. Haynes, presenting government's 1987-88 budget, said the move was part of his administration's policy of developing trade and investment relations with as many countries as possible.

Barbados has seen an upsurge in mainly exempt insurance companies setting up off-shore operations here since it signed a double taxation treaty with United States in February last year. The island has been marketing other off-shore businesses, such as banks and ship registration and Haynes told Parliament government would press on with its programme of aggressively marketing the off-shore services sector.

Haynes said Sweden had given notice of its intention to terminate the existing treaty, which was concluded with United Kingdom and extended to Barbados and has expressed its interest in concluding a new treaty more in keeping with the realities of our existing economic relationship. He said Barbados had made a positive response to Sweden.

Haynes said direct contribution to revenue from the entire off-shore sector amounted to five million dollars (one bdos dollar - 50 cents U.S.) in 1986-87.

Barbados has so far attracted 150 international business companies, 220 foreign sales corporations, 46 exempt insurance companies, 18 management companies, 13 shipping companies and four off-shore banks.

In the area of exempt insurance there has been considerable growth in 1986. The number of companies on the register moved from seven at December 31, 1985 to 46 by the end of 1986 and now stands at 60, he remarked.

This reflects Barbados' increased competitiveness as a result of the U.S. taxation treaty, which exempts American exempt insurance companies doing business with Barbados from federal excise tax.

Haynes noted however that changes in United States legislation in recent years had permitted the creation in the U.S. of an entity known as an international banking facility, which could offer many of the advantages available from a reputable off-shore bank.

Some provinces in Canada were in the process of following the example of the United States, he added. This development has reduced the scope for rapid growth in off-shore banking in Barbados.

Haynes said however operations of off-shore banks in Barbados had grown at a satisfactory rate, with assets of the four institutions last totalling U.S. 1.1 billion dollars - representing a 10 per cent increase on the previous year.

In line with its foreign investment objectives, Haynes said Barbados was moving to attract industries with higher value added locally. He said the focus of promotion must increasingly be on such firms with special requirements, including the need for a high quality work force.

Such efforts should be directed at industrial and commercial enterprises that may benefit from our regime of off-shore business. Success will require much greater use of personal and institutional contacts such as those built up by the commercial sector with their industrial suppliers or with other commercial enterprises over the years, he said.

Haynes announced government was therefore moving to establish a Barbados investment council, to promote mobilisation of domestic resources for investment. The council would consist of a maximum 12 persons drawn from the public and private sectors.

GRENADA

NNP OFFICIAL SAYS PARTY DIFFERENCES 'EXAGGERATED'

FL092124 Bridgetown CANA in English 2006 GMT 9 Apr 87

[Text] St Georges, Grenada, April 9, CANA -- Differences in the ruling New National Party (NNP) administration have been exaggerated, a key official said today. But Legal Affairs and Labour Minister Dr Francis Alexis declined to comment on the nature of the division.

"I have heard the general secretary of the party, Dr Keith Mitchell, say there is a concilitary team sitting to iron out whatever differences there might be", he said, "and I would not want to say anything that could prejudice the chances of success for that".

Alexis, regarded as a critic of the leadership style of Prime Minister Herbert Blaize, described his relationship with Blaize as "good."

The labour minister was asked whether it was, as widely thought, Blaize to whom he was referring when he said at a public meeting last September that no one person was going to "mess up" Grenada. He said he could not remember the context in which he spoke.

"I hope that (what he said last September) could not be referring to Mr Blaize," he said, "because I would be very sorry to know there was even the most remote possibility of Mr Blaize wanting to do that, so I couldn't think it could be referring to him."

Alexis said he had a "very, very good" relationship with Agriculture Minister George Brizan. The pair are said to head the anti-Blaize faction in the cabinet.

But asked about his ties with Mitchell, a Blaize aide, Alexis said: "The way I can answer that is to repeat what he (Mitchell) told a group of Grenadians in New York; that he has a professional relationship with me and I cannot foist a better relationship than that on him. He has decided what is the nature of the relationship."

ALEXIS QUITS RULING NEW NATIONAL PARTY

FL151513 Bridgetown CANA in English 1445 GMT 15 Apr 87

[Text] St Georges, Grenada, April 15, CANA -- Dr Francis Alexis, who resigned this week as Grenada's Attorney General, said today he was quitting the ruling New National Party (NNP) as well. He told CANA he expected his colleagues who also resigned at the same time, George Brizan who was the Education Minister and Junior Minister for Legal Affairs Tillman Thomas, to follow suit. "We took the decision to resign last night, and will be doing so today to clear up for once and all our association with that party," he said.

Alexis, Brizan and Thomas resigned their government posts on Monday citing differences with the administration on its labour policies, particularly plans for large scale public service retrenchment and its effect on the already high unemployment level.

Alexis and Thomas, both lawyers, said they intended returning to private practice. Brizan, an economist, has not yet announced his future plans.

Senator Resigns in Support

FL151516 Bridgetown CANA in English 1454 GMT 15 Apr 87

[Text] St Georges, Grenada, April 15, CANA -- Small businessman Oliver Joseph says he has resigned as a government senator and member of the ruling New National Party (NNP), in support of three parliamentary colleagues who quit their government posts last Monday. Joseph told CANA he handed in his resignations yesterday - 24 hours after Attorney General Francis Alexis, Education Minister George Brizan and Junior Minister for Legal Affairs, Tillman Thomas announced they were stepping down.

Joseph was an executive member of Brizans National Democratic Party (NDP), one of the three groups which merged to form the NNP four months before the 1984 general elections. Alexis was the leader of the Grenada Democratic Movement (GDM), the other party which, with Blaize's own Grenada National Party (GNP), formed the NNP.

PNP REPORTS ON MICHAEL MANLEY'S PROGRESS

FL141522 Kingston Domestic Service in English 1100 GMT 14 Apr 87

[Text] The following statement was issued yesterday by the general secretary of the PNP [Peoples National Party], Dr Paul Robertson:

Mr Michael Manley's personal physician has advised that he is progressing satisfactorily following his recent operation and in view of his progress no further bulletins will be issued on a daily basis.

UNION CLARIFIES MANLEY'S REMARKS ON IMF

FL142238 Bridgetown CANA in English 1519 GMT 14 Apr 87

[Text] Kingston, Jamaica, April 14, CANA -- The opposition-aligned National Workers Union (NWU) has reiterated its opposition to a 10 per cent wage increase ceiling that is part of the Jamaica government's current stand-by agreement with the International Monetary Fund (IMF). The union said a recent WASHINGTON POST newspaper story suggesting that NWU president and Peoples National Party (PNP) leader Michael Manley would honour the guideline if he again won the government was a distortion of the facts.

Public Service Minister Clifton Stone, facing public sector wage negotiations, made capital of the POST's report and called on other unions to follow Manley's lead. The minister may well be advised that the general executive council of the NWU is still opposed to the guideline and so too is the president of the union, the NWU said.

The WASHINGTON POST story had said that Manley, whose party has been pressing for general elections here, would respect the IMF agreement and supported the wage guideline. But now the NWU said that the tape recording of Manley's interview indicated that the story misrepresented the PNP leader.

According to the union, Manley responding to a question on the IMF said: I would start by respecting that there is an agreement, that we respect agreements and that we treat them as having a sanctity that can only be changed by agreement. This is the rule of the game so I am not saying that we would necessarily stick with the wage freeze. What I am saying is that when we see the whole agreement we would think through for ourselves whether there was a better way to put the jig-saw puzzle together.

JLP, PNP RESUME TALKS TO EASE TENSIONS

FL101447 Bridgetown CANA in English 1310 GMT 10 April 87

[Excerpts] Kingston, Jamaica, April 10, CANA -- High officials of the ruling Jamaica Labour Party (JLP) and the opposition Peoples National Party (PNP) met this week for dialogue aimed at reducing political tensions.

Both sides affirmed their commitment to work towards a peaceful political climate by finding solutions to a number of endemic issues of concern, said a joint statement by JLP General Secretary Ryan Peralto and his PNP counterpart, Dr Paul Robertson.

The meeting Wednesday followed an exchange of letters recently between PNP leader Michael Manley and Prime minister Edward Seaga, at Manley's initiative, for the parties to resume talks. [passage omitted]

The joint statement said it was agreed that there should be an immediate resumption of the talks with Seaga and Manley meeting at an appropriate state to finalise any agreements reached. [passage omitted]

NETHERLANDS ANTILLES

DEA HELP IN DRUG INVESTIGATION REQUESTED

FL141552 Bonaire Trans World Radio in English 1130 GMT 14 Apr 87

[Text] The government of Curacao has called on the U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration [DEA] to help in the investigation of the source of nearly 900 pounds of cocaine confiscated on the island last week. Officials have burned the 880 pounds of cocaine which they said had a street value of $60 million. Officials said that the cocaine was discovered by a specially trained dog that was given to the government.

OPPOSITION PARTIES COMBINE, WIN ELECTIONS

FL111222 Bonaire Trans World Radio in English 1130 GMT 11 Apr 87

[Text] On Bonaire, the opposition parties combined to win an absolute majority. (Forza Nobo), or New Force Party, received five of the nine seats as they elected (Rudy Alice) as (aylenstrat). Eighty-six percent of the registered voters turned out for that election.

On Curacao, the PNP [National People's Party] of former Premier Liberia Peters took 8 of 21 seats, making her the new council's [words indistinct].

ST LUCIA

GOVERNMENT RESIGNS; NEW ELECTIONS 'NECESSARY'

PA141655 Madrid EFE in Spanish 1627 GMT 14 Apr 87

[Text] Castries, Saint Lucia, 14 Apr (EFE) -- After having been in power 1 week, the Saint Lucia Government, presided over by Conservative John Compton, has resigned en masse, and new elections will therefore be held.

In a televised message to the nation, Compton said that new elections are necessary because the opposition Labour Party tried to blackmail members of the United Workers Party (UWP) to oust the government. Compton retained power by a majority of 1 seat in the 17-member parliament.

Governor General Sir Allan Lewis also announced his resignation, and claimed that the government's en masse resignation was necessary because of the division within the country and the distrust provoked among foreign investors.

A date for the new elections has not been announced yet, but it is believed that they will be held within the next 3 weeks.